



NEW SECTION WITH **50 PAGES** OF OFFICE, LEGAL AND BANKING APPOINTMENTS

City bets on a tough Budget

Diane Coyle and Anthony Bevins

Share prices soared and the pound fell back from its fiveyear highs yesterday as the financial markets concluded that today's Budget would be tough enough to reduce the need for higher interest rates.

The FTSE 100 index leapt more than 23 points to 4,728.0, its second biggest one-day rise on record. It was the largest gain in prices since the recovery from the 1987 crash.

Meanwhile the pound slipped back from its overnight high of DM2.91 to end at just under DM2.89. Its index again a range of currencies fell by 0.5

Pre-Budget speculation that the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, will deliver tax increases designed to dampen the budding consumer boom accounted for the stockmarket euphoria, analvsts said. This would reduce the pressure on the Bank of England to cool the economy by increasing base rates again.

Steve Wright, at BZW, said: This was the last thing you'd expect before a Labour Budget." But the market was reacting to rumours that Mr with higher taxes, he said.

Many experts have been calling on the Chancellor to get tough in his first Budget because rising interest rates have helped drive the pound to an uncom-fortably high level.

But even as the financial markets concluded the "Iron" Chancellor would live up to his reputation by targeting the housing market and raising "green" and "sin" taxes, Britain's biggest mortgage

3 INSIDE Woman 'invented killer'

A woman stabbed her fiancé to death after a ferocious argu-

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TATLOID

THE BROADSHEET

lender warned that the bousing

market was not booming.
The Halifax reported that house prices climbed 0.7 per cent last month, to a level 7.1 per cent higher than a year ago. This was far tamer than separate figures from the Nationwide building society. The Halifax said: "There is no need for any specific Budget measures aimed at curbing an al-

New Labour, new despatch box

Gordon Brown has banished the battered old red Gladstonian box that has been ised by Chancellors on Budget day for more than a century. He yesterday received the gift of a brand new red leather-lined, hand-finished box made by three young apprentices from the Babcock training programme at Rosyth Royal Dockyard in Fife - who were only told a few days ago what the box was for.

The latest business survey yesterday, of purchasing manacting to rumours that Mr agers in manufacturing, sug-Brown would target consumers gested that the strong pound has not yet harmed output or exports. But it has almost certainly hit profit margins on exports.

Peter Thomson, director general of the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply, said:
"It is encouraging that exports have not yet been hit by the pound. What is left of British industry is a good deal more efficient than it used to be."

But Robert Barrie, chief

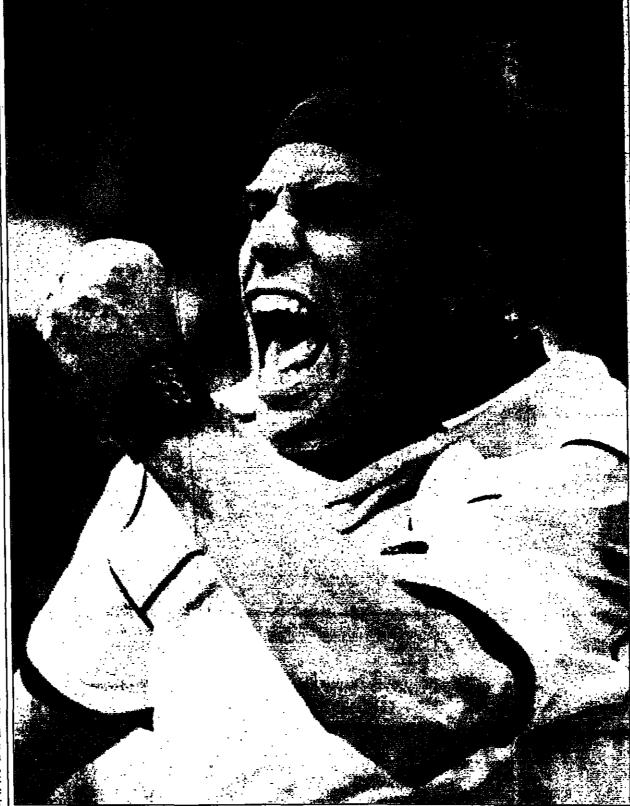
gins are under pressure. Com panies are finding it hard to make money." Relief from the strong pound was urgently needed, he warned.

Most economists have been predicting modest tax increases, amounting to less than £5bn, on top of the windfall tax on pri-vatised utilities. Yesterday these expectations had clearly been revised up, with the City now exsecting a rise in the tax burden oig enough to make a material difference to the interest rate outlook. Analysts warned that the markets would fall in an equally dramatic fashion if these expectations were disappointed. "The stockmarket would be very disappointed if Gordon Brown doesn't deliver," said Mr Wright.

Peter Lilley, shadow Chan-cellor, told BBC Radio 4's World at One: "The only reason Gordon Brown wants to have a Budget now is to raise taxes so that he can tax more now to spend more later. That was always their plan. It has nothing to do with the state of the economic cycle and it's a mere pretence to cover up the age-old tradition of Labour coming in and raising taxes so they can

spend more. The Opposition parties' main pre-Budget challenge was concentrated on the Government's Welfare to Work programme, and the windfall tax that would be used to finance it. Stephen Dorrell, Tory spokesman on education and employment, challenged the Government view that the scheme to provide training opportunities for 250,000 under-25s could become self-financing, once it

Game, set and quarter-final place to Briton Higher



Greg Rusedski celebrates after powering his way into the quarter-finals at Wimbledon yesterday, beating Richev Renebers in straight sets. The adopted Briton served 32 aces and wiped the American off the court in less than two hours with a score of 7-6 6-4 7-6, and said he was determined to go all the way to the final. "It feets great to be in the quarter-

had been given a kick-start from windfall tax revenues. economist at BZW. said: "Right across the economy profit marfinals but I don't want to stop here." he said Why John Major didn't go to Hong Kong

ment and then invented a "mys-tery murdering motorist" who had killed him in a road-rage at-John Major could have been in Hong rial service at Westminster Abbey. Kong but, for him, there was no comtack, a court was told. Page 8 petition. If saying goodbye to Britain's ast colony of significance meant not saying goodbye to Denis Compton, his boyhood cricketing hero, then Hong Business & City ...22-26

Kong could wait. The former Prime Minister was one of 2,000 friends, families and faithful who turned up at Westminster Abbey in London vesterday to say that goodbye and to remember the skill, grace and flamboyance that thrilled a generation of cricket lovers.

To watch Denis Compton play cricket on a good day was to know what joy was," said Mr Major. "I could have been in Hong Kong, But I think I made the right choice." It was the sort of choice being

made more often these days by the for-mer Prime Minister. Immediately after his general election defeat. Mr Features6,7 Major chose to go to Lord's instead of presiding over his party's disarray. And many commentators are already pre-Money12-18 dicting that his memoirs will distance Radio & TV23,24 him further from those he will say alien-Theatre4,5 ated the voters.

Compton, who died on 23 April -

Saint George's Day – at the age of 78, is the first cricketer to be given a memo-

And not since the service for the broadcaster Richard Dimbleby in 1966 was a celebration of life so oversubscribed. More than a thousand applicants had their request for tickets turned down.

Those who made it came from all walks of life and spanned several gen-erations. Keith Miller, 77, Compton's old Australian adversary, hobbled in on crutches; Sir Colin Cowdrey was there, talking of the man who brought sunshine to the dark post-war years; and JJ Warr, former president of the Marylebone Cricket Club, told how effortlessly the genius astonished those who came to see his flair on the football field for Arsenal and his panache

"In the last weeks of his life, a come appeared in the skies over Britain." said Mr Warr in a gently irreverent but warmly-received address. "Compo was a comet in his own right. Wherever he went, he cast brilliance in the

The outpouring of goodwill took Compton's family by surprise. Richard, 41, his son from the second of three



his old adversary at Westminster Abbey

marriages flew-over from his South African home to attend. "I didn't live with Dad for most of my life, so it's very moving for me to see the regard in which he is still held over here." he said, "It is a tribute to the British people that they have re-

membered him so well." Compton played cricket 78 times for England, scoring 38,942 runs - an av-

Photograph: Brian Hams erage of 51.85. He also played on the left-wing for Arsenal, winning championship and FA Cup medals and earn-

ng 14 caps for England. "He was unique", said Sir Colin Cow-drey. "Everything he did was effortless. yet, despite his brilliance, he never displayed any arrogance whatsoever.

"After the war, there were a few

senses and taught us how to smile

After the service, whose congregation ranged from Lords Archer and Runcie to the comedian Jimmy Tarbuck, the air was thick with Compo anecdotes. Of his notoriously bad timekeeping and disorganisation. Of the times he would turn up to play for England wearing the dinner jacket from last night's party. Of his smiling face everywhere advertising Brylcreem - in spite of its conspicuous absence from his kit bag

This has been a great honour for him," said his widow. Christine. "I knew he was regarded as a big sporting favourite, but I had no idea that he was this big. He would have loved

Aside from the cricketing records, there may be another Compton legacy: Richard Compton's son Nicholas The 14-year-old has inherited his grandfather's passion for cricket and captains his year's cricket team at Hilton College in Durban.

"His says he wants to come to England to play," said Richard Compton.
"And if he's anything like his grandpriceless people - like him and Vera father there'll be no stopping him."

prices in the bag

Alexandra Williams

A recycled teabag from yester-day's breakfast is not every one's cup of tea. But with the price of a British cuppa set to soar, many may sacrifice the perfect brew and resort to just that. A staggering 185 million cups

are drunk every day - more than the combined amount of coffee and soft-drink consumption. but yesterday a UN food agency warned consumers that droughts in tea-producing coun-

tries will mean price increases. The Food and Agriculture Organisation in Rome said the dry weather in Sri Lanka and many African countries has caused a 37-per-cent drop in production in the first quarter of this year.

With demand expected to remain stable, prices will in-evitably rise, it said.

Tea broker Tony Kane, of Wilson Smithett, said: "If the cost of tea on the supermarket shelves was going to reflect the price increase of raw tea you'd be looking at a 20- to 25-per-

"But if there's going to be a whack-up in price then it won't

be for a few months." Britain imports 150,000 tons of tea a year to satisfy the 77 per cent of the population who drink it daily.

Twenty countries produce tea, although Britain imports

But Sarah Ward, a Tea Council spokeswoman, said British companies would be prepared to go to other countries for supplies. She said: "In an average teabag there are 35 different blends of tea. The job of a blender is to maintain quality without compromising the price it's quite an art.

"Tea companies will have anticipated the problem and looked elsewhere. They will be keeping an eye on China's and India's production."

Van Den Bergh Foods, which accounts for a fifth of the UK tea market, supplying compa-nies such as Brooke Bond, said to evaluate how it would hit the consumer.

Spokesman Duncan Bogic said: "We are used to fluctuations in the raw materials - it's quite common. It will take some time to appraise the full implications of the droughts in Sri Lanka and Africa.

The announcement follows news of a rise in the cost of coffee. Extreme cold weather hit production in Brazil this year. forcing producers to relocate entire coffee plantations to

A frenzy of buying by speculators forced prices up to a 20-year high. Inevitably the consumer paid the price, with Nestlé, for example, putting the price of its 100g jars of Gold Blend up by 17p to £2.54.





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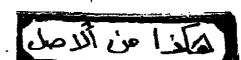


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significant shorts

Editor hopes to make the 'Sun' shine on Merseyside

The Sun newspaper said yesterday that it had approached the victims of the Hillsborough tragedy to try to end the long-running enmity towards the newspaper in Merseyside. Stuart Higgins, the paper's editor, confirmed that he had approached the chairman of the Hillsborough Family Support Group, Trevor Hicks, to set up

The Sun lost sales of around 200,000 copies a day after the paper was boycotted in protest at its coverage of the 1989 stadium disaster. Its sales are still believed to be down by more than 120,000 copies, eight years later.

Under a banner headline which read "The Truth", the Sun claimed that the crush that caused the 96 deaths at the Leppings Lane end of Hillsborough Stadium was caused by Liverpool fans who had been drinking before the match. The story also claimed that some Liverpool fans stole from the pockets of the dead and urinated on policemen trying to rescue them.



Mr Hicks said yesterday that the Sun might make a donation to the Hillsborough Justice Fund to make amends for the article.

"The Truth" was written while Kelvin Mackenzie, who later admitted the story was a mistake, was editor of the newspaper. Mr Mackenzie is now managing director of cable television channel Live TV, owned by Mirror Group, a shareholder in The Independent.

Freak weather takes toll on birds

More than 100,000 baby birds have been killed because of freak weather conditions at an internationally important breeding site, the RSPB said yesterday. The chicks – mainly kittiwakes and some guillemots – have been washed out of their nests in cliffs at Bempton, near Flamborough Head, East Yorkshire, by gales and

The RSPB estimates that more than 100,000 kittiwakes out of about 130,000 that have been born this year have perished. At least 90 per cent of about 8,000 guillemots bred in the colony are also thought to have died.

RSPB spokesman Chris Harbard described the loss as a "huge tragedy" for Bempton, which has been a successful seabird breeding colony for hundreds of years.

If the storms had struck just a few weeks later it is likely the birds, which were up to three weeks old, would have survived because many would have been able to fly.

Marsh faces crown court trial

The former world light-welterweight boxing champion Terry Marsh was sent for trial at crown court yesterday, charged with attempting to dishonestly obtain a student grant.

Marsh, 39, from Basildon, Essex, who stood down as a Liberal Democrat candidate at the general election, appeared at Thames Magistrates Court in London, answering unconditional bail. The charge alleges that he lied about his academic qualifications in a student grant application.

He was committed for trial at Southwark Crown Court in London and remanded on unconditional bail by magistrates. Two previous charges of deception involving £9,000 relating to student grants were dropped.

Reporting restrictions were not lifted.

Bullying inquiry in Western Isles

Government inspectors are to visit a school in the Western Isles which has been at the centre of serious bullying allegations. The scottish education minister, Brian Wilson, vesterday announced that a special inspection would be carried out at the Nicolson Institute in Stornoway.

The school was in the news recently when a pupil, 16-year-old Katherine Jane Morrison, committed suicide after being bullied by two fellow pupils. Lee Anne Murray and Michelle McBratney, both of whom were later sent to a detention centre for three months.

Earlier this month, Western Isles Council announced that a wide-ranging review of the management of the Nicolson Institute

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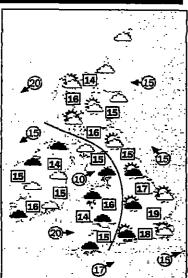


NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING Recycled paper made up 41.2% of

538 8388. Creat cards welcome.

the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1996

The British Isles General Situation and Outlook:



4.59 4.51

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21.33 to

_21.40 b

Scotland will start cloudy and damp with some patchy rain. During the day it should slowly brighten up with the best of the sun along the north-west coast, but occasional showers are also likely, and persistent rain will never be far away from the south-west.
Northern Ireland, Wales and western England will be cloudy and grey with spells of rain. Eastern and south-eastern England should start dry with a little sunshine, but a

few scattered heavy showers will develop.
Tomorrow, England and Wales should see a
little sunshine, but it will be another cloudy day with scattered heavy showers. Northern Ireland and Scotland will also have a lot of cloud and some showers, but the far north may stay dry. On Friday the showers will be mainly over England and Wales with the best of the dry weather in Scotland and Northern Ireland. The weekend should be drier, brighter and warmer in most places, but patchy rain will spread slowly south through

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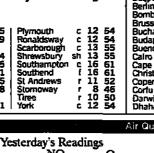
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New York Nice Nicosla Paris Prague Reykjavik Rhodes Rio de Jan Riyadh Rome Stockholm Sydney Tenerile Tokyo Vernna Warsaw Washingto

people

Ship to shore: Tracy Edwards and her team have braved cruel seas on their long voyage

Tracy's all-woman crew

cruise into record books

ty queasy.

day last week, was chasing Serge Madec's 1990 time of six days, 13 hours and the principal of the last of the voyages by the 10 women — all firsts by an all periods crew.

In August they will attack the Flouris and Ireland Sailing recent of five days, 21 bours and five min-

With four A grades at A-level

cording to his personal tutor, Dr Hugh Hunt. "He has been fantastic

and we are absolutely delighted."

Fellow studentshave grown used to the sight of Nikhil speed-

ing around the quads and stair-

ways at a smart pace "I decided !

could walk slowly and not bump

into anything or I could walk at a

pace I wanted and have the occa-

sional collision. I chose the latter,"

Europe and The World

Lucy Ward

and the determination to apply,

Nikhil was ideally qualified, ac-

international yachtswoman Tracy Edwards's racing

catamaran was yesterday expected to set a new transattantic speed sailing record for a vessel crewed

entirely by women.
The 92ft Royal and Sun Alliance was due to cross the finishing line off the Lizard, Comwall, last night.

She was then expected to sail straight back to Hamble, Hants, and is set to arrive this afternoon.

the French-held "all-comers" speed record. But, as the

first all-female crew to take on the 2,925 nautical mile speed challenge, their time will stand as the mark to

Blind student's

double first

at Cambridge

the age of nine, applied to take a chemistry degree. Three years on, the university's first ever blind science student has gained the top

first class honours degree in his

Nikhil, 21 (right), who also

of the highest firsts overall.

subject at Trinity College, and one

scooped two university prizes and

will return to Cambridge in the au-

overcoming his disability.

He revised lecture notes from a

computer with the aid of a Braille

was able to "read" diagrams drawn by tutors in blunt pencil on

acetate film. In the lab, only exper-

iments with the most dangerous

chemicals were out of bounds.

synthesiser and voice box, and

tumn to begin a research degree in quantum chemistry, astonished tutors with his resourcefulness in

The admissions authorities at Cambridge University were scepti-cal when Nikhil Nair, blind since

The catamaran, which set off from New York on Sun-

Light and variable winds sank her attempt to beat

And in December they will take part in the Jules Verne Round the World trophy challenge.

During her latest voyage, Ms Edwards described the hardships she and the crew were facing, on the same

She said on a ship-to-shore call: "The weather is pretty horrendous. It is five degrees below freezing with the wind right on the riose, making the boat toss around or shudder through the waves. Just when you think

you have got your balance, it pitches. There are a few

bumps and bruises and several of us are feeling pret-

fully clothed, so that they can be ready to deal with icebergs. When you see them on radar it's worse than seeing them for real, because as you hurtle through the blackness your imagination works overtime."

However, despite the discomfort, Ms Edwards said

All that matters is the weather, the sea, and what you are doing on board at the time. Kim Sengupta

imprisonment.

| DJ Caesar jailed

for deception

Caesar the Geezer, Capital Radio's controversial "shock jock" DJ, who

ing he had stomach cancer, was

sentenced yesterday to 15 months

He was sentenced under his real

name, Chris Ryder, at Chelmsford Crown Court after pleading guilty to five charges of breaking the law relating to undischarged bank-rupts, and for breaching a 1993 suspended sentence for obtaining

property by deception.

Ryder, 40, pleaded guilty to obtaining a car on credit without de-

A spokeswoman for Capital Ra-

dio said yesterday that the station

had believed Mr Ryder was seri-

He was originally with Talk Ra-dio, when that station sought a

controversial image and had been

at Capital for a year. His agent, David Ham, said the

sentence was "totally inappropri-

Paul McCann

AA Roadwatch

London, All Leytonstone. Lane closures at Al2 round about until August 1999. London, A306 Hammersmith

Surrey, M25 J8-10, Lane do

Brisani, M5 J18-19. Contraflor

Lane closures both ways unti

July 8th. Staffordshire, A50 Stoke On

Trent, Major works at Mei-mil March 1998. Leicestershire, A6 Locking-ton. Contraflow near M1 J24.

nm. Contraints hier M.1.2 Woker, West Midfands, A41 Woker-hampton. Roadworks on Bil-ston Road until further notice. Greater Manchester, A627 Bordsley, Temp lights on Ash-ton Rd.

Mersevside, A567 Bootl

until further notice. Type & Wear, A19 Newcastle area. Roadworks at Killing-

West Yorks, MI, J47., Malo

North Yorks, A19 Thorns

claring he was a bankrupt.

ously ill when he resigned.

resigned suddenly last month, claim-

Everyone is drenched to the skin and having to sleep

aters which had claimed the Titanic.

Outlook for Today
NO2
London Good
S England Good
Wales Good
C England Good
N England Good
Scotland Good
N Ireland Good AM HT PM HT 0.22 6.5 13.00 6.8 10.12 8.5 22.42 8.7 5.5811.8 18.2611.9 Hull (Albert Dock) 5.17 8.0 17.33 8.1 11.36 3.1 23.52 3.1 10.40 3.9 23.14 4.0

briefing

EDUCATION

'Most dilapidated school' wins share of £37m fund

A crumbling primary school, once dubbed the most dilapidated in Britain, yesterday learned it is among 200 schools to share in £37m released by the Government for repairs and renewal.

The Independent reported earlier this year how staff and parents at Weeting Primary in Norfolk lobbied their local MP, the then secretary of state for education and employment, Gillian Shephard, to act over the condition of the thatched schoolhouse and surrounding mobile classrooms, where the children have to attend

classes wrapped in anoraks during the winter.

Norfolk County Council will be able to spend almost £1m on building a replacement school, the schools minister Stephen Byers announced yesterday.

The Ridings School in Halifax, briefly shut down amid a discipline crisis last autumn, will also receive a £650,000 handout to fund an arts suite. The poor standard of the school's buildings had been blamed as a factor in its troubles.

Lucy Ward been blamed as a factor in its troubles.

AGRICULTURE

Deaths on the farm hit new high

The number of people killed on farms rose by 40 per cent to hit a six-year high this year, according to official figures published yesterday. A total of 63 deaths, including eight children, was recorded in the 12 months to April – up from 45 the year before.

The biggest rise in fatalities was among self-employed farmers – levels were higher than at any time since new reporting methods

were introduced in 1986. were introduced in 1986.

A breakdown of the accidents shows that falling led to most deaths, accounting for 12 fatalities. Other major causes of death were being trapped by something collapsing or overturning, and being hit by a moving vehicle. Five people drowned or were asphyxiated, four were injured by animals and one was killed in a

FINANCE

New rules for banks and lenders

Two new codes of practice for banks and mortgage lenders, aimed at giving the public a better deal, came into force yesterday. The standards and make clear the responsibilities that banks, building societies and mortgage lenders have to their customers.

All the major banks and societies have signed up to the new codes, and copies of the rules are available at branches.

Both codes feature a list of general "commitments" and a number of specific promises polating to issues such as what happen

number of specific promises relating to issues such as what happens when people get into financial difficulty, as well as interest rates.

mortgage advice, dealing with complaints and confidentiality.

The new Banking Code includes several amendments to the old code, while the Mortgage Code lays down a "benchmark" set of minimum standards which lenders will follow, and also introduces a new framework for the selling of mortgages.

CAREERS

Bright prospects for arts graduates

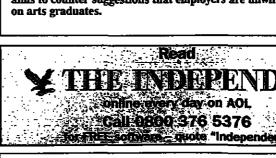
Arts and humanities graduates fare just as well in the job market as those on more vocational degree courses, according to research published today. Their employment prospects immediately after graduation differ little from those graduating in physical science and engineering.

After four years, 95 per cent are either working or in further

study, compared with 92 per cent of physical science graduates and 97 per cent of engineers. The average for all subjects is 97 per

Six months after graduating, classics offers the lowest unemployment rate, followed by music, history, theology and linguistics. Graduates with accounting and business studies degrees find it harder, at this stage, to get jobs.

The report, from the Council of University Deans of Arts and Humanities and the Council for Industry and Higher Education. aims to counter suggestions that employers are unwilling to take on arts graduates.





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Up against it: A Volvo S40 (the only car awarded a four-star safety rating), a Mercedes-Benz C Class and Rover 600 (both rated with two stars)



Tests show that even 'safe' cars can kill

But it isn't

a dream.

... but you might wake up in hospital: The Mercedes

C-class did badly in the tests

Edmund King, head of cam-aigns at the RAC, said the tests

600, Andi A4, Citroen Xantia,

The results brought a furious

Saab 900 and Pengeot 406.

Randeep Ramesh Transport Correspondent

Some of Britain's best-selling family saloon cars do not protect their occupants from serious injury in road accidents. according to the results of official European crash protection tests out yesterday.

Thirteen popular models were smashed into deformable walls to simulate crash conditions at the Transport Research Laboratory. Two main tests were conducted to gauge the protection cars gave to occupants and pedestrians in the event of front and side-impact

Only one car, the Volvo \$40. was awarded a four-star rating in the tests - the highest possi-ble under the Euro New Car Assessment Programme (NCAP) ratings. Five cars got three stars - the Ford Mondeo, Vanxhall Vectra, Volkswagen Passat, Nissan Primera and Renault

The results showed that some expensive marques did not offer greater protection from injury. The £20,000 Mercedes C-cla only received two stars as did the £17,000 BMW 3-Series.

The Mercedes, which is currently being redesigned, did particularly badly in the side impact test - where a car is rammed from the side by collapsībie barrier at 30mph. Acresponse from the industry aware that the public may shun cars that do not make the grade. In the last batch of tests in February, the programme ranked the Rover 100, a popular hatchback, as the worst for car safety. Sales from January to May this year were 32 per cent less than the corresponding period in 1996.

The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders condemned the tests as "trivial and misleading". Roger King the so-ciety's public affairs director, said: "To star cars for safety on the basis of two different tests, ignoring other factors such as handling and braking characteristics is insufficient for accurate consumer guidance.

Mr King said the SMMT cording to researchers, when the would not expect manufacturtest took place with the Merers to use the results in publiccedes "the [driver's] door struck the dummy's chest before the ity material. Ernie Thomson, chief executive of the SMMT. side airbag had fully inflated". said the industry had some "reservations about the tests" which he would discuss with the Government later this month.

showed "price alone was no guide to how well protected a The industry's comment driver and passengers are. The brought a swift rebuke from the judge a car's safety on the price, manufacturer's reputation or echnie, called on the moustry to stop "rubbishing the tests and Other cars which only scored two stars included the Rover

The test's supporters appear to have the upper hand. Neil Kinnock, the European Union's comed the new tests and announced that the programme would be extended

Describing the EU's annual 45,000 road accident deaths and 1.6 million injuries as "an appalling toll of tragedy", Mr Kinnock said road deaths could be cut by 30 per cent and the number of serious injuries re-duced by half if all cars matched the levels of the safest models.

The survey findings will be published in What Car? and be made available to all 12 million RAC and AA members. However, the Government will not force dealers to carry the information. Baroness Hayman, the roads minister, said: "I believe people will research into the safety aspects of their next car as more information be-comes available."



Driven to distraction: Above, Maureen Rees and her husband Dave. Below, another star-



The learners from hell grip the nation

Last night almost one-fifth of the country's population sat down in front of their televisions to watch a group of learner drivers reverse up kerbs, fail to stop and generally frighten the life out of their teachers.

Driving School, the latest in

a series of "observational soaps" on BBC1, has, been so successful that one subject, Cardiff cleaner Maureen Rees, yesterday achieved national prominence for passing her driving test at the eighth

Mrs Rees's driving lessons, aided by her long-suffering husband. Dave, have become something of a national ob-session. Her terrifying exploits have helped push the viewing figures for Driving School up to 10 million - placing it fourth in the ratings, just behind Coronation Sireet, EastEnders and

The audience tuned into the documentary series to watch Mrs Rees, 55, swerve into the path of a vehicle in the fast lane, argue incessantly with her busband and even run into him with their car, a Lada called Betsy.

While surprised by the series' success, its BBC producers be-lieve they have hit upon something of a winning formula. There are two more observational soap series in development: Vets in Practice, a follow-up to the equally successful Vets' School, and Holiday Reps, which follows a group of holiday reps in their first season in Minorca and Lanzarote.
"It's about having characters that people can latch onto," the

executive producer of the series, Grant Mansfield, said. There's an element of the underdog there, someone destined to fail but who passed at

Trying to explain the success of Driving Lessons, he added: "There's also the obvious thing about rites of passage and universal experience. Everyone

can remember their own essons."

Martin Arnold, spokesman for the British School of Motoring, agrees, "It's something that touches everybody's lives in one way or another. There's also a mentality among drivers that we all think we're the greatest. We're all very critical of other drivers. And it's funny watching other people," he

The series has been attacked by some driving instructors. who believe that their profession has been made to look foolish. But Mr Arnold says that the most important thing it highlights is the importance of finding a good driving instructor.

We all think we're the greatest drivers. And it's funny watching other people'

Learning to drive and tak-ing your driving test are two of the most stressful things in people's lives. Things are different from when mum and dad learned to drive." he said.

"To people who want to take driving lessons, BSM's message would be 'don't be fooled by what you've seen. It can be a lot more straightforward. And make sure you get the right driving instructor. You've seen the nightmare that can happen if you attempt to do it with a relative"."

Approximately 1.5 million ople are currently learning to drive, with 1 million driving

tests taking place annually.

Maureen Rees's test day will be screened in two weeks. Drivers in the United States should take note: Mrs Rees plans to celebrate with a fly-drive holiday to Florida.

Drink-drivers halted

Devices that disable cars if the driver is over the alcohol limt should be considered in the continuing fight against drinkng and driving, said a report out yesterday.

Breath Alcohol Ignition Interlock Devices have been used on convicted drink-drive offenders in the United States, Canada and Australia.

ly needed to beat the menace of drink-driving", said the re-

pansion of rehabilitation programmes for offenders. "This research shows that to reduce the drink-drive limit

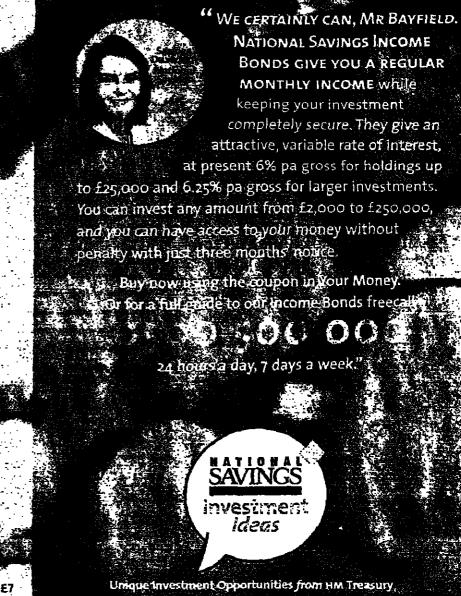
They are one of a number of new ideas that are "urgent-

port from the British Institute of Traffic Education Research. Produced for the Portman Group, which is funded by several leading drinks companies, the report called for tougher sentences such as immediate licence suspension, confiscation of cars belonging to convicted drink-drivers and the ex-

alone would be of limited benefit only," said Portman Group







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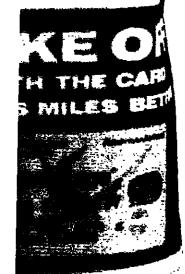
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Don't force marches through, says Ahern

Michael Streeter

The tension surrounding this weekends highly charged Orange parade at Drumcree increased yesterday when the new Irish premier, Bertie Ahern, urged the Government not to force the march through.

At the same time, nationalist residents on the controversial Garvarghy Road route through Portadown announced plans to hold nightly pickets on the roadside from today.

Mr Ahem, who yesterday held a brief meeting in Belfast with Mo Mowlam, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, indicated that his support for any decision by her on the fate of Sunday's planned march was not guaranteed.

"Nobody wants to see the march forced through." he said. Asked if he would support her decision - due later this week - he added: "That will depend on what it is.

A more trenchant view still came from the Irish Foreign Minister, Ray Burke, who said it would be "folly" to force the parade through.

Their remarks were seen as a reminder of just how much hangs on Ms Mowlam's deci-

By allowing the march through, she risks alienating the Irish Government and the Nationalist community at a critical time for the prospects of

Against that, The Independent revealed last week that sections of the Orange Order have drawn up plans to bring the province to a standstill if the Portadown march is not allowed through its traditional

One theory is that the Government might allow the march to go through, ensuring a short.

if sharp backlash, rather than a long, drawn-out stand-off. Mr Ahern, who will be raising the issue in talks with Tony Blair in London tomorrow, went out of his way to praise Ms Mowlam as a person of "com-

mitment, energy and drive". He also said he would do everything possible to bring about peace in Northern Ire-

"I will play my part and I look forward to doing that maybe in a more helpful way than has been done in the past, said Mr Ahern, who later held talks in Dublin with representatives of the Portadown residents and others from the Ormeau Road

Earlier. Ms Mowlam said she was surprised by the deci-sion of the Nationalist residents to hold the roadside vigils. "I hope the demonstration is

peaceful and within the law and in the end that it will still work for common sense to prevail," Brendan McKenna, spokes-

man for the residents, said a street festival planned for the day of the parade on Sunday will also go ahead. He urged the Secretary of State and the RUC Chief Con-

stable to re-route the Orange Parade from Drumcree Church. "For one year the National-

ist community must have a breathing space from the parade, from the fear, the anger and the real apprehension it He also confirmed elaborate

plans for a "justice camp" and protests involving women and children. The protests were immediately condemned by unionists as

deliberately provocative. The Democratic Unionist Party's Nigel Dodds said: "It's a clear attempt to up the ante. This is deeply regrettable.

Sister sledge laps up big chill on the trail of adventure



Cold front: Wendy Smith, who is to attempt a single-handed crossing of the North American continent to raise funds for charity, with two of her canine companions, Huskies Skeeta and Lupo, at the World of Snow ski slope in Telford, Shropshire

Photograph: Steve Hill/Newsteam

Union plans summer of discontent

Barrie Clement Labour Editor

The Government is facing its first major industrial conflict after leaders of 9.000 cabin crew at British Airways decided to press ahead with a three-day strike expected to begin next Wednesday.

If the action goes ahead, all BA services using Heathrow will be affected together with all intercontinental flights from Gatwick, although the airline will attempt to operate as many services as it can with the help of non-strikers and staff on short-term contracts.

While cabin crew leaders decided to go ahead with indusrial action, representatives of 9,000 ground staff opted to suspend a decision on stoppages for 48 hours pending talks with management.

If negotiations involving BA's airport workers break down, they may decide to walk out for 24 hours on 11 July to coincide with the third day of the cabin crew stoppage.

In a telephone conversation with Bill Morris, leader of the Transport and General Workers' Union, Bob Ayling the airline's chief executive, agreed to address the grievances of nent and may respond to

ground staff. According to the union, however, he registered no enthusiasm to discuss the cabin crews' grievances.

Management later however professed "amazement" at the union's decision to call the strike. A spokesman said that Mr Ayling had agreed to outside conciliation on the issue as requested by Mr Morris.

The company is prepared to negotiate on the terms and conditions of 1,400 staff who work for the airline's catering division which is to be sold off. Many catering staff have families on the Indian Sub-Conti-

improved assurances of sub-sense and called on BA to nesidised travel when the sub-Mr Morris agreed to sus-

pended a decision over a strike by ground staff, which is threatened in protest at the sell off, but authorised the 3-day stoppage by cabin crew. The transport union leader

said he would appeal to Mr Ayling to negotiate on both disputes. Mr Morris said that the airline's chief executive, however, made it clear that he was only prepared to address the concerns of ground staff.

He accused Mr Ayling of turning a "deaf ear" to common gotiate a settlement of the cabcrew's dispute.

Mr Ayling said there had been a "breakdown in communications" at the union. He contended that Mr Morris had given him until the end of yesterday to respond to the union's arguments. The T&G had nevertheless authorised action before the deadline, he said.

The BA chief executive said that the suggestion of involving an outside "facilitator" was a good one. Later last night a union spokesman commented "Why don't they just speak to

DNA break in **Kent** murder hunt

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Crime Correspondent

A DNA sample of the suspected killer of Lin Russell and her daughter Megan has been re-covered in what could be a breakthrough in the investigation. A forensic technique has allowed police to recover DNA - a unique genetic fingerprint - from dead hair from the scene of the murder in Kent. Previously DNA samples had to

be from living cells for a sam-ple to be obtained. The mother, 44, and her sixyear-old daughter were bludgeoned to death a year ago. The second daughter Josic, 10, was left for dead by the attacker, who also killed their dog. The assault happened on a country footpath near the family's home in Chillenden, Kent.

Police believe a hammer was used. Josie barely survived but gradually regained her power of speech and began to remember details of what happened, She and her father, Shaun

Russell, now live in Wales, where the family lived before moving to Kent.

The Forensic Science Service has developed a method of obtaining mitochondrial DNA from dead hair and bones. It was used to identify the bones of the Tsar's family four years ago. The DNA is inherited through the mother and does not degrade like chromosomal DNA currently obtained from living cells such as blood and saliva samples. A hair sample without roots was recovered from the murder scene.

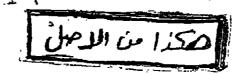
Mitochondrial DNA is not as accurate as the current system but could help eliminate sus-pects and provide additional cvidence against the alleged killer. The breakthrough in the DNA sampling is expected to be announced today.

Doctor Janet Thompson, chief executive of the Forensic Science Service, said yesterday that the new DNA technique was capable of providing a vital piece of evidence in the case, as it cannot be relied upon on



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Family-friendly policies, such as job shares and flexi-time are failing to be relevant to many working fathers, according to a new report.

Cutting back on working hours is simply not an option for many working dads who may want to spend more time with their families but as the main breadwinners just cannot afford to do so. But many men still have no idea that becoming a father may affect their work and have no way of dealing with the increased demands that fatherhood brings, the British Psychological Society's Women and Psychology Conference heard yesterday.

More than 50 per cent of men had not made any plans to combine work and fatherhood said Sarah Lewis, a chartered organisational psychologist.

"With working mothers there are visible signs – people are al-ways asking when is it due or are you going back to work? That doesn't happen to men," said Ms Lewis, who interviewed 200 men about how they coped with being a working father and identified three main groups. The first was the "daddy

track" - workers who had adopted long-term strategies to help them be a successful father. These workers deliberately tried to work shorter hours, had lower expectations of their role at work and often did not seek or refused promotion. They sought jobs close to home and also often chose jobs that had

a minimum of overnight travel. The second group had part-ners who worked full-time who strategies in order to play their



Balancing act: A working dad collects his son from the Pillar Box Nursery, Bow, east London yesterday, after a long day Photograph: Tony Buckingham

part in childraising, "They were significantly more involved in day-to-day childcare than their fathers had been," said Ms Lewis. "Because their wives worked they had to manage their working lives better and do

divisible parents", she said.
"These fathers said I work long hours because I am the main breadwinner. My wife is at home looking after the chil-dren. We're both doing a good job between the two of us and it doesn't matter how often I see

While a quarter of all fathers said that they would always or frequently take time off if their children needed them too, only 4 per cent said they would leave a meeting early. "There was a need to be visible at work," Ms Lewis said. "The men needed to

More than one in seven said they were having to work in the evenings or at the weekends. Family-friendly policies as they existed at the moment were not practical for many families. "They are suitable for the sec-

ond breadwinner or the main childcarer, not the main bread-

winner trying to support a family," said Ms Lewis, "Job shares or flexi-time often involve working less time but the drop in income is not what the families are looking for."

Ms Lewis said that more

but real women can still get ahead

The 1980s "Working Girl" image is out of date, with women no longer having to resort to adopting male characteristics to get ahead at work.

In the past it has been thought that the women who did best were those who employed masculine qualities such as assertiveness, appres Sion and dominance.

By doing this it was though they were more valued by others and in their own eyes than their sisters who were seen as more traditionally feminine. But Sara Paterson, psychol-

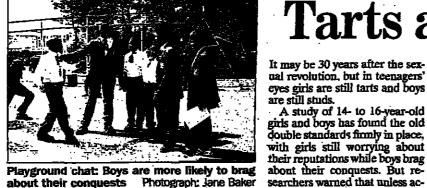
ogist at the University of Westminster, told the British Psychological Society's Women and Psychology Conference in Loughborough her study of \$0 women in a variety of profession – including computer programmers, physiotherapists and chefs - showed that women who were characterised by more feminine qualities, such as empathy, friendliness and compassion, did just as well at work and valued themselves as highly.

Ms Paterson said she was

thrilled by the findings. "Now women can be seen as powerful women while still acknowledging their femi-

tions need to develop a talent for recognising and rewarding performance and achievement than their current talent for recording visibility and atten-

"It's this idea of being there



Tarts and studs still dominate the playground It may be 30 years after the sexual revolution, but in teenagers' eyes girls are still tarts and boys

A study of 14- to 16-year-old with girls still worrying about their reputations while boys brag

health were serious in the light of HIV/Aids.

Seen as "looking for it" if they girls and boys has found the old carried condoms, girls were either

Linda Dainty of the Universiteenagers to imagine telling a

tion was taken to counter such at-titudes, implications for sexual what sex was like. All the boys expected orgasm or "the buzz", but none of the girls spoke about having an orgasm.

Telling friends about sexual were termed "studs" or "stalty of Wolverhampton, asked the lions", while girls remained "slags" or "tarts". Girls who en-

joyed sex were downgraded even further to being "dirty cows". "Boys relived the time they had

through their sexual story-telling, they would go up in their mates esteem," said Ms Dainty, speak-vou a name." ciety's Women and Psychology Conference in Loughborough

"In effect they had two orgasms

- one real and one in the telling. The 15-year-old girls told me that one of the worst things about sex were if [their partner] went and told everybody and 'getting

boys or girls should carry condoms to protect against sexually transmitted disease or pregnancy, but "girls who carried condoms on the

off chance were perceived as tarts by boys, and even girls colluded in this thinking that such girls were asking for it," said Ms Dainty.

She warned that safe sex messages were unlikely to be effective dressed, "Society's current system of sexual morality operates in op-



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Probationers commit a murder a week

Kidnap - 7

Buggery – 4

Armed robbery - 4

Crime Correspondent

Offenders on probation are charged with one murder and a sexual assault on average every week, a Home Office report revealed yesterday.

Criminals serving community sentences and under supervision after being released from prison are also on average said to be responsible for an attempted murder every formight and nearly one act of violence every week

In four cases, mentally ill peo-

ing a condition of their probation order, went on to kill Failure properly to supervise criminals was found in nearly one-fifth of all cases, some of which contributed to further reoffending.

The study, which disclosed that 69 murder charges were brought against people under supervision during a 13-month period, will be seized upon by critics of the Probation Service who have long argued that it is a soft option and have called for greater use of imprisonment. There will also be concern

During 13 months to were 285 charges against people on probation, including:

Murder - 69 about the apparent lack of treatment for mentally ill offenders. This follows an alarm-

ing number of killings by former psychiatric patients.

argued yesterday that the offences, while shocking, were only a tiny proportion of the 190,000 people they dealt with

Attempted murder – 32 Rape – 30

Possession of firearm/

offensive weapon – 19 Robbery – 15 GBH – 12

Indecent assault - 10

Attempted rape - 6 Wounding with intent - 5 Manslaughter - 5

Office's Probation Unit, concluded in the report: "The analysis shows that offenders under probation supervision are charged with murder or a serious sexual offence at a rate of ter of considerable concern."
The Home Office took the

unusual step yesterday of publishing the Probation Circular of Serious Instant Reports, which are voluntary provided by the 54 regional probation ser-

vices in England and Wales. The study examined 204 incidents involving 184 offenders from November 1995 to December 1996, most aged 20-35; nearly half had a previous con-viction for a violent offence. Most offences happened within eight months of supervision.

The vast majority of the of-fenders had problems involving mental illness, drug and alcohol abuse, and convictions for sexual offences, but only one-fifth of their sentences included specific measures to deal with these. About one-third of the 27 mentally disordered offenders had

difficulty obtaining treatment. Supervision failures identified in 36 cases included not following national standards, failure to carry out home visits, not covering staff absences, poor inter-service and inter-agency communications, and failure

to deal with negligent officers. Mary Honeyball, of the As-sociation of Chief Officers of Probation, said: "The report shows that probation work is very often a matter of life and death . This report gives no clues as to how many incidents are avoided due to the well judged and

timely actions of staff." A Home Office statement said offences committed while on probation were of "great er, such incidents do not necessarily indicate a supervision failure by the probation service."

The beautiful and the exotic: a smuggler's booty more lucrative than the drug trade

Kim Sengupta

When Customs officers smashed open the two statues at London's Heathrow airport all their suspicions appeared to be confirmed. But the package inside was not the expected high-grade cannabis. Instead they had stumbled across something much more lucrative for smugglers – rhino horn.

The hom highly prized in the Far East sells for about £7,000 a kilo. Cannabis would fetch about £ 3,000 a kilo. There was more than £25,000 worth hidden in the two Plasticine

That shipment from South Africa. intercepted in London on the way to Taiwan, is just one illustration of the amount of money that can be made from endangered species on the international black market. Ivory, crocodile skins, pelts and

ards, live rare birds and birds eggs,

'Travellers need to know that their souvenirs could be made from

endangered species'

tors and traders across the world. However, the problem is not just a large scale commercial one. A huge amount of banned items seized at ports and airports in the United Kingdom are brought back by ordinary travellers who had bought them as souvenirs abroad.

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) has been signed by 136 member countries of the United Nations. Under it's regulations more than 800 species of plants and animals are currently banned from international trade, and another 23,000 are strictly con-

But the international restrictions do not apply to indigenous domestic markets, and there is nothing to stop tourists from buying a wide and three months each.

range of goods from crocodile leather handbags to stuffed birds and turtle shell ashtrays. However, the goods would be confiscated if detected being brought into Britain, and prosecution may follow. The last available figures, for 1995-96, show that Customs seized 12,178 items derived from endangered species, 4,374 live animals, and 2,748 plants. To highlight the problem Customs

and the Natural History Museum have opened an exhibition at the museum in South Kensington, west London. It is due to run from today until August 31. The main aim is to inform travellers going abroad about endangered species, and the inadvisability of buying products made from them.

Customs officer Charles Mackay, head of the CITES enforcement team at Heathrow, said: "We came across a Russian recently with 200 bones of big cats like tigers and leop- live turtles packed in a couple of cases. One of them had escaped and was in demand by unscrupulous collec- carousel. But we also have much more sophisticated smuggling at-

tempts.
"Ivory is one of the most common items. We are also coming across products from tigers and leopards which are in demand for traditional medicines by expatriate Chinese communities. A tiny plaster strip with tiger balm can sell for around £7."

Dawn Primarolo, Financial Secretary to the Treasury said: "Travellers need to know souvenirs could be made from endangered species and their purchase could encourage this unlawful trade. This exhibition

will increase public awareness". Customs officers say they would also like to see awareness on environmental issues raised among the judiciary. Most of the prosecution for smuggling endangered species prod-ucts is under Section 170 of the Customs and Excise Act 0f 1979 carrying a maximum sentence of seven years, and/or an unlimited fine.

But in 1995 a man who was convicted of possessing more than 500 dead endangered specimens and believed to have links with an international syndicate only received a two year sentence.

And, after another successful con-viction, the leader of an international gang of rare egg smugglers was sentenced to just eight months, and his associates received between two



Customs haul: A selection of products made from endangered species, some bought as souvenirs, which have been brought into this country. An exhibition opens today at the Natural History Museum aimed at alerting travellers of the problem Photograph: Peter Macdiarmid

Two are jailed in 'Band of Gold' tragedy

Kate Watson-Smyth

Two men were jailed for 10 years yesterday for the manslaughter of a teenager who turned to prostitution after watching a television series about vice-girls. Lucy Burchell, 16, died after taking an overdose of heroin. She started to work on the streets after watching the ITV series Band of Gold.

Tahir Khan, 26, from Saltey, Birmingham and Rungzabe Khan, 25, of Hodge Hill, Birmingham. were also convicted at Birmingham Crown Court of supplying heroin, and possession with intent to supply. Lucy disappeared on 15 August and her body was found five days later in Edgbaston, Birmingham.

Passing sentence. Mr Justice McKinnon said: "You are both, in a real sense, evil young men, actively engaged in the wicked trade of heroin-dealing." The conviction for manslaughter was "by omission". because they failed to summon medical help for Lucy after she fell into a coma. "She died when small effort on your part to summon help may well have saved her life."

The court heard she began working the streets of Walsall in the evenings while sitting her GCSE exams during the day. Each night she dren's home where a 15-year-old friend was living, and the two then went to a red-light area. According to a another prostitute, herself aged 15, Lucy would "go with anyone, any-

By the time she died, her parents, Graham and Christine, of Great Wyrley, Staffordshire, knew Lucy was mixing with prostitutes. They tried to reason with her, offered her a car and said they would buy her a horse if she would stop. They thought their pleas had succeeded when Lucy wrote them a letter apologising for upsetting them. But she continued to walk the streets.

The letter, adorned with hearts and kisses, said: "I can understand that you must be worried. I suppose I thought though there was no reason for you to be worried (which there isn't) but I know how much I must be upsetting you.

Two days later she was dead. The two men had picked her up in the Caldmore area of Walsall and taken her to a house in Edgbaston where they fed her a dose of 80-per-cent-pure heroin. She fell into a coma and by 6pm the following day

she was dead. After the trial her brother Craig. a student, read a statement from his parents: "We will never be able to make sense of what has happened and the loss of our daughter will always be with us, every day ...

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Genetic weapons to provide force for high-tech ethnic war

Jeremy Laurance Health Editor

Genetic weapons that could be is clearly a very frightening scetargeted at specific racial groups nario. We are trying to prevent in a form of hi-tech ethnic warfare are to be investigated by the British Medical Association.

They do not exist but could be available in five to 10 years, the association said. Doctors fear developments in genetic therapy to cure disease might be turned to evil ends in the hands

weapons could theoretically be targeted by addition of a gene marker to attack a specific part of the human body. The genetically engineered toxin might be sprayed into the air or added to food and water. If clusters of

Nathanson, head of science and ethics at the BMA, said: "It new weapons being developed and distributed. We want to know whether genetic weapons are feasible and how to control or stop them."

The investigation, commisboard of science, was announced at the BMA's annual conference in Edinburgh. It is due for completion in 12 months. Scientists expect to be able to produce the first genetically targeted drugs in five years. The drugs would repair faulty DNA within the cell and might be used to treat conditions such as diabetes and cystic fibrosis. Dr Nathanson said:



sioned by the association's Tribal conflict: Doctors are concerned that ethnic warfare could be waged in future

good effect, we won't be able to produce similar drugs with a bad effect in the same time-scale."

The Human Genome Project, which is mapping the entire human genetic code, might produce enough information to allow specific genetic types to be identified. "We know the genes for hair colour, eye colour "No one has been able to tell and height. If 90 per cent of the

netically targeted drugs with a hair and are over six feet tall, ham had produced leg and arm that could be the cluster you are looking for." Certain blood types were commoner in different ethnic groups and could also be targeted, she said. Earlier the conference called

for the manufacture and supply of instruments of torture to be banned after hearing of British companies that had sold the equipment abroad.

the BMA council and chairman shackles and other companies had made hi-tech torture chambers, which used low-level noise ham company were deliberately designed to crush the radial to drive victims mad, and a mass gallows for export to Saudi Arabia, the conference was told. Investigations by Amnesty International had found a number of companies exploiting le-

and export the equipment.

its," he said. Sandy Macara, chairman of the BMA, said: "There is nothgal loopholes to manufacture ing good about the profits made

of the medical group of

Amnesty International, said

shackles made by the Birming-

nerve in the arm when tight-

ened. "They made good prof-

The conference called for the creation of mechanisms in every

It supported the Government's ban on land mines, which was announced last May following an appeal by Diana, Princess of Wales, and said the money saved on the defence

abuses and torture.

Doctor's dilemma over cancer patient

A doctor described yesterday how she was accused of taking the moral high ground after she pleaded with a social services manager to help a patient die at home, writes Jeremy Lau-

Dr Joy Edelman, consultant physician at King George Hos-pital, Redbridge, north-cast London, said her patient who had cancer, was forced to spend his last weeks in hospital separated from his family where he died a lonely and miserable death.

The case was presented to the British Medical Association's annual conference in Edinburgh as an example of how excensive hospital beds are being blocked by a shortage of cheap facilities in the community which prevent the admission of the seriously ill and deny ter-

minal cases a dignified death. Dr Edelman had contacted social services to obtain a hoist and other equipment and was told there would be a delay. She protested that it would be too late. "The man I spoke to accused me of standing on the moral high ground. I said 'yes, and I was proud of it'. I said it was a disgrace that any recountry through which doctors maining happiness my patient could report human-rights might have had from his last

could report human-rights weeks was being denied to him. The conference called for proper funding of community care after hearing hali of all blocked medical and geriatric hospital beds were occupied by patients who could not be dis-

Cold and flu sufferers will be sent to hospital in GP shake-up

Chief Political Correspondent

Patients will be able to go to hospital for so-called "Monday morning" ailments such as where doctors are reluctant to now complaining about the in-colds, flu and headaches, normally treated in GPs' surgeries, under plans announced yesterpand primary care services in

salaries of around £50,000 to open up surgeries in areas run general practices. They could use clinics in the NHS hospitals, or empty shop premises in the high street. Most GPs are independent

Hospitals and health authorities will be given permission to hire GPs on annual tracts delivering about £45,000 a year. With additional sums for practice staff and expenses, it can provide a comfortable living, but many family doctors are creasing workload, stress, and long hours, which may be putting off young doctors from joining general practices in the inner cities, where the problems contractors, with NHS con- of recruitment and retention are

particularly acute. Hospitals and health authorities will be able to attract GPs by offering them more than the contract rate for the job. They will be able to offer women doctors the chance of more flexible working arrangements to enable them to return to the profession after a career break for having

to the consultants in the hospital for more treatment.

Alan Milburn, the health minister, vesterday announced that salaried GPs would be encouraged, in a series of pilot schemes, to start from April. 1998. But he ruled out allowing supermarkets or high street The GPs will still act as chemists to run general prac-

"gatekeepers", deciding tices by hiring GPs. Mr Milburn short-stay treatment. One prac-whether to refer their patients said it would help to recruit family doctors to areas such as Sunderland, Leeds, and London, where shortages were being ex-

perienced. Other GPs will be allowed to develop "one stop" surgeries, combining care for chronic diseases, minor injuries, the mentally ill and may include community hospital beds for

optician's services, dentistry, a pharmacy, a lay counsellor, and a rural advice centre. "The the NHS closer to home. Some of these proposals are about blurring the distinction between primary [GPs] and secondary

over the pilot projects from the Tory government, Mr Milburn has refused to approve any schemes to expand services by GP fundholders, in which prac-Government's vision is to bring tices run their own budgets, because the Government is committed to replacing them with locality commissioning. where GPs in an area band to-[hospital] care," the minister gether to obtain care for their patients from hospitals. said. However, having taken

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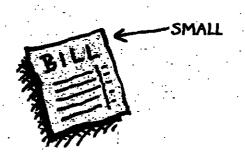
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Woman 'invented road-rage killer'

Michael Streeter

A woman stabbed her fiancé to death after a ferocious argument and then invented a "mystery murdering motorist" who had killed him in a road rage attack, a court was told yesterday.

David Crigman QC, for the prosecution, told the jury at Birmingham Crown Court, that Tracie Andrews and Lee Harvey rowed while driving home from a pub before Mr Harvey was stabbed with a penknife more than 30 times in the head, neck, chest and back.

"After the attack she was to claim that the death was caused by the occupant of another car in the course of a driving dis-pute, Mr Crigman said. There never was some mystery murdering motorist. It was her." The court heard that Ms An-

drews, 28, who denies murder, and Mr Harvey. 25, had a "volatile and turbulent" relationship. Three months before the killing on 1 December, 1996. police had been called to Mr Harvey's flat after an argument. On the day of Mr Harvey's flat in Alvechurch, Worcester-



shire, but Mr Harvey's white RS2000 Escort turbo stopped along country lanes, the couple were spotted by two witnesses death it appeared they had had a long argument at Ms Andrews' and both had got out. Ms home. Later they had rowed Andrews had then lauched a "viagain in the car on the way back cious" attack on him. from a pub in Bromsgrove to her

On their way from the pub

On trial: Tracie Andrews arriving at Birmingham Crown Court yesterday. Centre: The murder scene near Alvechurch, Worcestershire, where Lee Harvey (right) was stabbed to death Photograph: Newsteam

were spotted by two witnesses whose evidence meant the defendant's assertion of a second car pursuing the white Escort was "a lie", Mr Crigman said. Princess Alexandra hospital in

Later Ms Andrews tucked the knife she had used to murder boots, disposing of it in a waste bin while being treated at

Redditch, on the night of the killing, Mr Crigman said.

The bins were regularly emp tied and Mr Crigman said that as it took police several days to

Ms Andrews as the killer, the noise. I knelt in something wet. knife had long gone.

The court was told that Richard Main, who was visiting a friend, Susan Duncan, at a house near the murder scene, heard a voice in distress and Mr Main asked Mrs Duncan, to call an ambulance while he ran back to the road. The defendant had "mentioned no other car, no other motorist".

Mr Crigman alleged that it was not until Mrs Duncan came out of the house that Ms Andrews began to construct her complex story of her fiancé dying in a road rage attack.

Ms Andrews had described

the other vehicle as a black Sierra-type car and said that it was the passenger who had attacked her fiance after they had exchanged rude gestures. At one point, the front seat

passenger of the other vehicle got out of the car and went towards Mr Harvey. He had "big staring eyes, she said and remembered her fiancé calling him something like "fat man".

Ms Andrews alleged that the man then hit out at Mr Harvey several times. The man had also hit her and when she got up he was walking back to his car. She had said: "Lee was making a funny noise like a gurgling ... I started to cry."

Mr Crigman told the court that a "hank" of human hair matching Ms Andrews own hair had been found at the murder scene along with a few strands clasped in the dead man's hands.

Also, blood splashes, consistent with having come from

> There was never some mystery murdering motorist'

an injured person dripping blood on to the floor was found at the back of the Mr Harvey's car, which Mr Crigman said was "totally inconsistent" with Ms Andrews story that he had been attacked at the front of the vehicle. He said: "In short, Lee Harvey was under attack and assaulted in a wholly different location than where the defendant was claiming some mystery attacker attacked him." The case continues today.

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Woodhead 'in cahoots' with prince

Judith Judd **Education Editor**

Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools, has been accused of acting "in cahoots" with The Prince of Wales to promote a teacher training initiative which appears to conflict with government pol-

Don Foster, the Liberal Democrats' education spokesman, says that Mr Woodhead's plans for more school-centred teacher training contradict ministers' statements before the election about how teachers should be trained. He asked Estelle Morris, the

schools minister, in the Com-mons last week: "Will she explain on whose authority the Chief Inspector of Schools, Mr Chris Woodhead, possibly in cahoots with Prince Charles, is promoting school-centred teacher training?" Prince Charles, who shares Mr Woodhead's concern about "trendy" teaching methods, is under-stood to have had several meetings with the chief inspector, including at least one at Highgrove.

Traditionalists, who blame universities and colleges for failing to train new teachers to teach the basics, support school-centred schemes started by the previous government under which schools devise and run their own courses.

favours a partnership between schools and higher education. during debates on the Education Bill in 1994.

Ministers are preparing to announce changes to school-centred training as part of a package of measures to be pub-lished on Friday.

Ms Morris said in reply to Mr

Foster: "I remain convinced that we need a combination of sound practice in schools and strong links with institutions of higher education if we are to train people to be effective teachers.

Many teachers argue that reports from the Office for Standards in Education, which Mr Woodhead heads, show that the schemes have had only limited success. Experts say that they fail to give new teachers the overview of education which they need. Mr Woodhead said last night:

"I do not accept the school-centred teacher training is a failed experiment. I am not promoting the scheme. What I am interested in is general initiatives designed to ensure that the excellence of our outstanding schools is used to the benefit of the system."

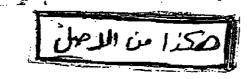
David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers; said: "Heads have voted with their feet over school-centred teacher training. The vast majority have stayed with higher education and are However, the schemes were running programmes in part-attacked by Labour, which nership with them."

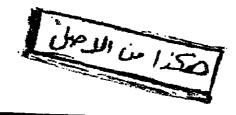
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Phenomenon file. Slide 2

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Mandelson to stand for party executive

Political Correspondent

He is becoming the political antithesis of Macavity the Mystery Cat. Wherever you may care to

look. Peter Mandelson is there. The minister without portfolio, who already sits on several cabinet sub-committees and who is in charge of the Millennium Experience, is to make a bid for even more power. He plans to stand for election to Labour's ruling body, the National Executive Committee. The move will be seen by Mandelson-watchers as the latest step along the route to political legitimacy for Tony Blair's arch-fixer.

The architect of Labour's election campaign has become well known as a spin-doctor and as one of the figures famously de-scribed before the election by Clare Short, now Secretary of State for International Development, as "men who live in the dark." Now he plans to make his name as a far more public figure.

"I want to build on the election success through membership of the NEC. After modernising Labour, we need to bring about lasting change in Britain. The party and the Government working closely together is crucial to achieving this," he said.

There is no guarantee that he will be elected to the body. Last year Jack Straw, now Home Secretary, found himself without a seat and will not stand again. An aide to Mr Mandelson said that although he was per-

ceived as being unpopular, this was not the case. "This is about setting out that he does have the support of the party. He spends a lot of time going around the country to constituencies and there is genuine warmth to-wards him," he said.

If he does achieve his aim, Mr Mandelson will sit alongside Robin Cook, David Blunkett. Mo Mowlam and Harriet Harman. Tony Blair and John Prescott have seats as leader and deputy leader. Gordon Brown's

decision to step down leaves a gap. The election will take place under the one member, one vote system, with ballot pa-pers being posted out in August and the result being announced at the party conference in Brighton in October.

Mr Mandelson's role seems to have been constantly expanding since the election. There had been speculation that he would be put in charge of a spending department, but

post in the Cabinet Office. Al-though he is not in the Cabinet, he apparently has more power than some who are. The cabinet committees on which he sits cover constitutional reform, London, home and social affairs, environment, local government, economic affairs, legislation, European issues, welfare to work and food safety. He is also

responsible for the £590m Millennium Experience in Greenwich, south-east London. Every morning Mr Mandel-

son chairs the daily media meeting for press officers and min-isters. He has even taken to visiting departmental press of-

fices to inspect their work.

There is considerable nervousness and even jealousy among Labour MPs about his position. Many believe he acts as the eyes and ears of the Prime Minister, and worry that whenever he speaks he may be speak-ing on Mr Blair's behalf.

It is expected that the num-ber of "big names" on the NEC

will be scaled down in favour of more representation from the wider party. Ironically, the man at the heart of new Labour might only be able to sit on the NEC for a year in the sent he is seeking. If the party's latest modernisation plans go ahead, MPs will no longer be able to stand for the constituency section of the committee, although the Cabinet will be represented. Dennis Skinner and Diane. Abbout are also likely to lose

their scats.

MP sleaze report uses hard words

Christian Wolman Westminster Correspondent

The 900-page report on the cash-for-questions affair, which is expected to be highly critical of many of the 10 former-MPs involved, will be published tomorrow. Robert Sheldon, the new chairman of the Commons Standards and Privileges Committee, said that the language used by the report into the actions of the former MPs was

The 10 against whom allegations have been made will be given the chance to read the report from 10am and it will be published at 4pm. The most serious allegations have been made against five, all of whom were defeated at the elections. Neil Hamilton is alleged to have lied to the former deputy prime minister Michael Heseltine, but has consistently denied accepting cash to ask questions in Parliament on behalf of Mohamed al-Fayed.

Other former MPs whose behaviour is considered by the report include Sir Michael Grylls (former MP for Surrey North West) who received at least £86,000 from Mr Greer, Sir Andrew Bowden (former MP for Brighton Kemptown) who admits failing to declare £5.319 given by Mr Fayed, and Michael Brown (former MP for Brigg and Cleethorpes) who did not declare £6,000 commission for lobbying for tobacco interests to the tax authorities until seven years after he received it; and Tim Smith, the former minister who resigned as candidate for Beaconsfield because he was alleged to have accepted around £18,000 in cash from Mr Fayed which he did not declare

The report had been prepared by Sir Gordon Downey at the end of March, but its publication was delayed because Parliament was prorogued early by John Major, the outgoing prime minister. The subsequent row over Mr Major's decision cast a shadow over the whole Tory election campaign.

Mr Sheldon vowed to clean up sleaze and said: "I hope that by the end of this Parliament, the standing of MPs will be higher than it is at the beginning. That is the aim of this committee."

Great gun surrender begins as pistols become a weapon of the past



Guns on display at Belgravia police station, London, yesterday, at the start of Britain's biggest mass surrender of handguns. Some 160,000 large-calibre Photograph: Peter Macdiarmid pistols were made illegal by the Firearms (Amendment) Act, which was passed following the Dunblane massacre

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liamentary system. I am quite happy to listen to the arguments for a referendum on the Amsterdam treaty although I haven't had too many people pressing me to be allowed to

Clarke dismisses referendum call

Colin Brown Chief Political Correspondent

Kenneth Clarke, the former chancellor, vesterday dismissed William Hague's call for a referendum on the outcome of the Amsterdam summit by saying that Britain was "becoming like Switzerland without

In the first signs of his readiness to speak his mind from the backbenches, Mr Clarke, the defeated challenger for the leadership, made it clear that he did not support the proposal by tive leader, for a referendum on Inter-Governmental

The Independent has learned that Mr Hague had been pre-pared to offer Mr Clarke the deputy leadership, if he had been prepared to serve in his team, but Mr Clarke made it clear after the leadership election that he wanted to return to

the backbenches. Yesterday, Mr Clarke said on BBC radio that he did not want another "four or five years of collective discussion" as a member of the Shadow Cabinet. When I looked at shadow government, I felt I've been there, done that; it's time, having been in government, to try to be an elder statesman," he said.

With a sideswipe at Baroness Thatcher, Mr Clarke denied he presence of Sir Edward Heath as a constant critic of his successor. "I think Ted behaved very much better towards Margaret than sometimes she behaved to wards John [Major]," he said. But he wasted no time in dis-

Hague's call for a referendum.
"I think we are having a lot of
referendums in this country at the moment. Tony Blair seems keen on them as well. I sometimes think we are becoming like Switzerland without the cowbells." Mr Clarke said. "I personally prefer the Par-

have their say in a referendum." Mr Clarke said the time

would come when MPs would have a referendum about? We said we would retain the veto have the chance to debate the legislation that came from the and we did; we got a deal on decisions at the IGC. Mr Blair's

dum on the IGC, which Mr Hague called for at the Scottish Tory conference in Perth. A Downing Street source said: "It's more to do with in-

office supported Mr Clarke in

rejecting the idea of a referen-

border controls and fish, which the Tories failed to do when they were in office." While praising Mr Hague for appointing a balanced Shadow Cabinet. Mr Clarke ex-

pressed the hope that Mr Hague would not "move further to the right into hardline Euro-

Labour fails to whip up support for 2000

Anthony Bevins Political Editor

Only 32 Labour MPs - less than one-tenth of the Government's backbench strength - have so far backed a Whitehall-inspired Commons motion of confidence in the millennium cele-

A backbench motion tabled in the House last Thursday by Diana Organ, the new MP for Forest of Dean, was closely modelled on a press statement issued on the same day by Chris Smith, Secretary of State for National Heritage.

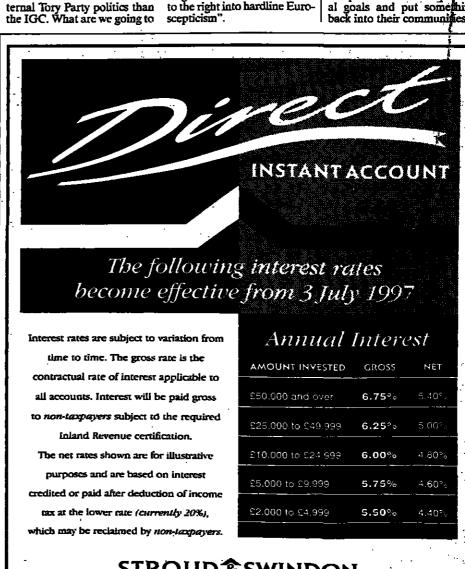
Mr Smith's parliamentary private secretary, Alice Ma-hon, has been one of the MPs going around the Commons.

asking MPs to sign the motion. But it is known that a number of Labour MPs have refused to support it, even though it has been put down as a simple statement of opinion, and is not debatable. There are 329 backbench Labour MPs who are not ministers or whips and are entitled to sign Commons motions. and 32 signatures is a poor showing for a policy that has been so strongly picked up by Tony Blair.

Another Commons motion, also tabled last Thursday and also featuring Mrs Organ as a sponsor, has so far been signed by 167 MPs - sending greetings and best wishes to Mukhtar Pakpahan, the imprisoned leader of an independent trade union.

The fact that the "Millennium Experience" attracts less support than Mr Pakpahan will embarrass ministers, including Peter Mandelson, the Minister without Portfolio, who have been trying to whip up enthu-siasm for the celebrations. The Commons motion was part of that exercise. The motion notes that the celebrations go beyond Greenwich to benefit the whole country, including the £200m Millennium Awards scheme; which "will help individuals ful-

fil personal goals". in a press notice, also issued last Thursday, Mr Smith said that the awards scheme would "help individuals fulfil personal goals and put something back into their communities."



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Labour fails to whip up support for 2000

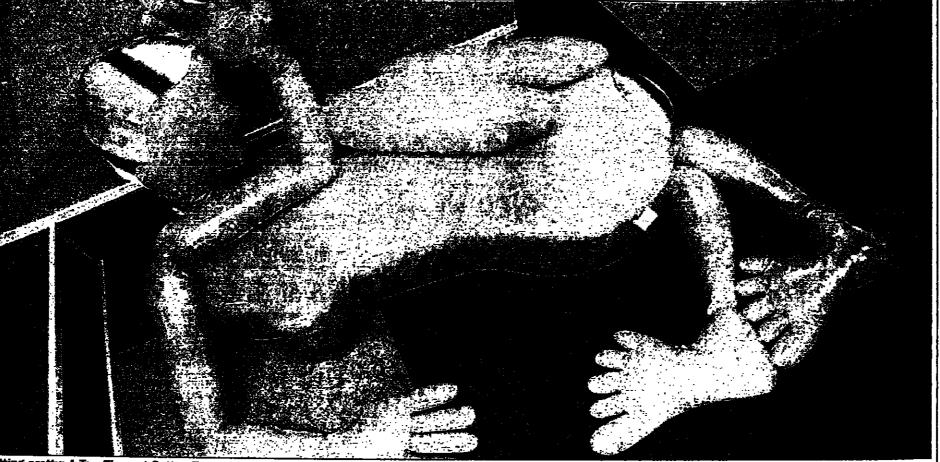
Anthony Bevins Committee of the Park

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Sitting pretty: A Ten-Element Settee Femme, designed in 1968 by Nicola, which will be auctioned by Christie's at its modern design sale tomorrow Photograph: Philip Meech | flank and forequarters of ani-

Burger King ends beef ban

The American fast food giant Burger King has agreed to end its ban on the use of British beef in its burgers.

The decision is worth £10 million a year to the beef their relatives contracted the industry which is already celebrating a vote of confidence from burger rival McDonald's worth £30 million.

Burger King said yesterday that its announcement was not merely a knee-jerk response to the McDonald's move, but was the result of lengthy negotiations with officials from the Min-istry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and the Northern Inland and UK Meat and Livestock Commissions.

The fast food chain has asked officials and suppliers to set up a system of tracing meat and guaranteeing that it conforms to standards laid down by the company. Under the Burger King Quality Assurance Scheme, all meat used by the company would come from the

mals less than 30 months old. The National Farmers Union described Burger King's decision as "fantastic news", but the families of many victims of new variant Creutzfeldt Jakob Disease remain convinced that disease from eating beef in-

feeted with BSE. They are angry that the burger chains have given the im-pression that all British beef is

But Burger King's managing director David Williams said the decision was based on research customers supported the return of British beef as long as the meat was backed up by a farm

"Up to 50 per cent of the beef used in our burgers will be British, the remainder will continue to come from approved suppliers in the EU meeting all UK requirements," he said. British beef will be re-intro-

duced to the 420 Burger King outlets across the country in the

Give us cash from defence, say police chiefs

Jason Bennetto Crime Correspondent

Money should be switched from the armed forces to the police to help fight crime and drug traffickers, the leader of the country's senior police officers demanded yesterday.

Ray White, President of the

Association of Chief Police Officers and Chief Constable of Dyfed-Powys, argued that crime posed a greater threat to the country than foreign military forces. His comments drew immediate condemnation from the military.

It is believed to be the first time such a senior officer has directly targeted a rival service in an



Ray White: Strong case for greater investment in police

'There are many times and places in which the level of police coverage is worryingly low'

attempt to claim extra funding. The police and the military have traditionally had very close ties.
Mr White told Acpo's annu-

al conference in Cardiff: "The threat to this country from crime in general, and drugs in particular, probably far out-weighs any conceivable modern military threat 1 do wonder whether the balance in the distribution of resources now meets our realistic national needs and indeed the priorities of the public. The defence review and other spending reviews may produce opportunities to adjust government priorities, as it has in the United States.

"A distribution of just half a per cent of the 6 per cent of gov-erument expenditure from the defence budget to policing for example, would transform our ability to protect the public. Mr White argued that the 2

per cent budget allocation for the police was not enough to provide extra bobbies on the beat and keep up with devel-opments in technology such as DNA. He compared this with the huge amounts spent on the armed forces. He said: "I read of the debate about whether we should have three new smaller aircraft carriers or two larger ones and about how many jet fighters at £30m each we need for the Royal Air Force."

He said there was a strong case for greater investment in the police, and called on the Government to carry out a fundamental review of funding. "There are certainly many times and places in Britain in which the level of police coverage is worryingly low ... The reality is that patrol resources are often

thin to the point of invisibility."
Finally he added: "It is worth noting that in New York birthplace of zero tolerance, the policing level is more than twice as high as in Britain."

In a speech last night to the conference Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, said he could not promise any extra resources for the police. Instead he called for greater efficiency and im-proved performance. "I will not make promises on extra resources which I cannot deliver. You will all know that the Government faces a difficult public expenditure climate. We all need to examine carefully whether we could implement our policy priorities more effectively and efficiently."

He went on to reiterate his support for Zero Tolerance policing to tackle disorderly neighbourhoods. He highlighted new evidence from the British Crime Survey that bur-glaries and violent crime were far more likely in areas of dis-order. He said: "The risks of being a victim of violent crime are more than four times greater in a disorderly neighbourhood than an orderly one."

In response to recent critical and the same and t

cism of Zero Tolerance by some chief officers Mr Straw said: "To those who say they are not in favour of Zero Tolerance, I say that I do not mind if you reject the term. But I firmly believe that all police officers should embrace the idea ..."

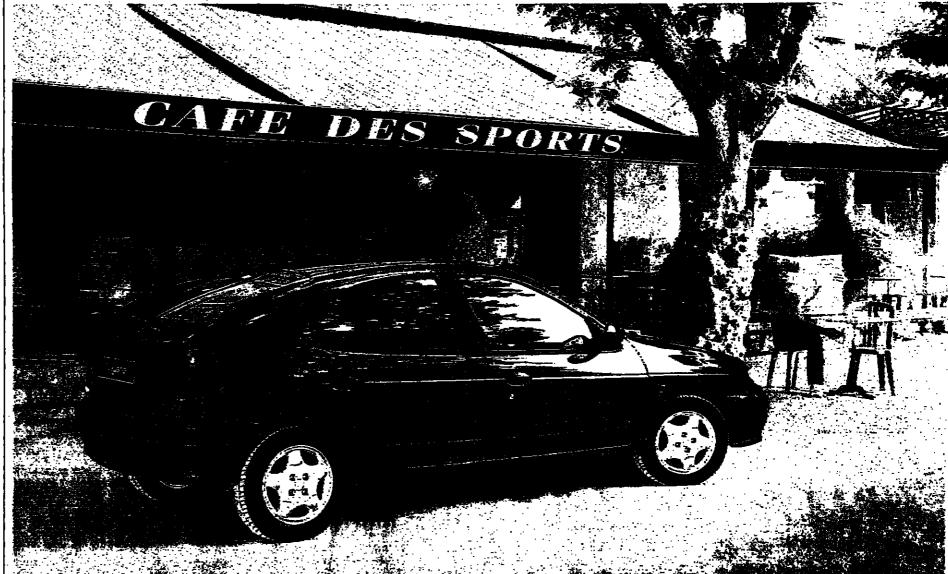
Several chief constables have criticised the use of the phrase Zero Tolerance, which they believe is being touted as a general panacea to all problems.

In what must be seen as a rebuff Jack Straw said: "Like all good policing Zero Tolerance must be based on a clear strategy. Zero Tolerance won't work if it just means cracking down indiscriminately ... Rather, Zero Tolerance policing requires partnership and it requires a clear focus on locally identified crime problems. Success will depend on being able to identify accurately what the crime problems are, and what effect police action is having."



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The 'crumb' that could have exterminated the dinosaurs

Charles Arthur Science Editor

An object like this may have brought an end to the reign of the dinosaurs 65 million years

It is an interplanetary crumb, dating back to the formation of the solar system, which was never baked into the recipe of the rest of the planets; an asteroid, 33 miles across, whose has "a very tortured past," acsurface reflects so little light that it is twice as dark as charcoal meaning that only computer enhancement makes it visible.

The US space agency Nasa released the pictures, which were captured during a flypast of Asteroid 253 - or "Mathilde"

as it is better known. The images were taken by the Near Earth Asteroid Rendezvous (Near) spacecraft, 186 million miles from the sun - beyond the orbit of Mars. The Near spacecraft passed just 750 miles from Its irregular shape includes

many impact craters - some almost half as wide as its diameter - and show that Mathilde cording to Donald Yeomans of Nasa's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, who heads the radio science team observing the object.

The Nasa scientists have been surprised by the size and depth of the craters in the asteroid. The fact that it has not



Rock of ages: Could this barely visible "interplanetary crumb" have ended the reign of the dinosaurs?

broken apart, despite the apparent signs of damage, suggests that it is less dense, yet also

more uniform, than a solid piece of rock. The team have determined and 5 billion years ago.

rich material, and that it formed early in the creation of the solar system, but was not pulled in to any of the processes that formed the planets between 4

albedo. The Earth, for example reflects 33 per cent of the sun's nd 5 billion years ago. light, meaning its albedo is Those would melt and mix 0.37. Mathilde rates just 0.03.

the materials of any object making them increasingly reother asteroids, in the gap beflective - that is, raising their tween Mars and Jupiter.

Occasionally some asteroids fall out of those orbits towards the planets; hundreds are believed to be scattered through-

out the solar system, some close enough to pose a threat to Earth.

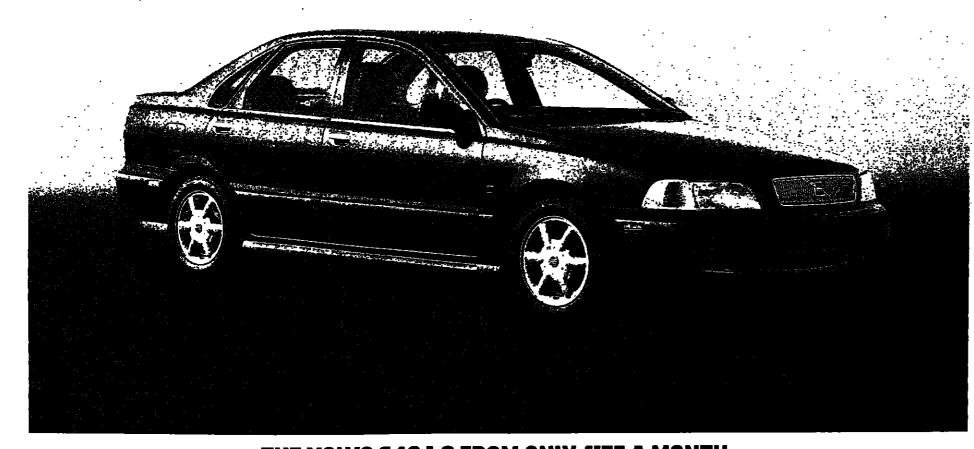
Many scientists believe one such asteroid crashed into the Gulf of Mexico and caused

killed off the dinosaurs The data gathered in the latest fly-by may help scientists to detect them in future, and even to decide how best to deflect them from hitting Earth, if that

Photograph: NASA

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Ship was wrecked 'for view of the coast'

The world's oldest working sail- the cliffs admire the Maria ing ship was wrecked on the Asumpta, and to use up some Cornish coast with the loss of three crew when her owner-captain took her close inshore to admire the coastline, a court Litchfield put the vessel on a lee

heard yesterday. Despite knowing the coast well. Mark Litchfield steered the 137-vear-old Maria Asumpta on the course, regardless of adverse wind and tide conditions. claimed the prosecution lawyer. Richard Lissack, at Exeter Crown Court yesterday.

The 125-foot-long two-masted square rigger went aground on the "treacherous coastline" at Rumps Point outside Padstow Harbour on 30 May 1995, and broke up "almost immediately". the jury. said Mr Lissack.

Mr Litchfield, from Boxley. Kent, has pleaded not guilty to the manslaughter of the three members of the 14-strong crew who died. They were: Anne Taylor, 51 of Wallingford, Oxfordshire, the ship's cook; sec-ond engineer John Shannon, 30, from Queensland, Australia; and Emily MacParlane, 19, of Felixstowe, Suffolk, an assistant bosun. The charges allege that Mr Litchfield, a former Royal Navy lieutenant, was in breach of a duty to take reasonable care of those who sailed in the vessel. The prosecution lawyer said

Mr Litchfield set the course, chose the route, decided all matters of navigation and ran all aspects of the vessel. "He would not brook any question of his authority," he told the court.

"Despite knowing the north Cornish coastline very well, he decided to take her close in-shore regardless of the prevailing wind and tide which were adverse. He did this to admire the coastline, let those on time as they were ahead of schedule," he said.

"In taking her close inshore, shore - a situation where the wind was blowing lowards the shore to which you are close.

Mr Litchfield, he said, broke two of the golden rules of sailing. Always maintain a good distance off, and never get caught on a lee shore. Throughout that afternoon he had every chance to tack out to sea and put distance between the vessel and the shore. "He chose not to despite the obvious hazards that loomed." Mr Lissack told

"His navigation of the latter stages of the course was totally inadequate. He used the wrong charts, with no passage drawn. and no attempt to mark off nogo areas," said Mr Lissack. Mr Litchfield "did not even

take the simple step of ordering the crew to put on life sckets despite the fact that the grounding of the vessel with the obvious risk to life was a possibility." Mr Lissack claimed.

Mr Lissack said a square-rig vessel was particularly vulherable on a lee shore, and for some hours before her loss the Maria Asumpta was fighting adverse wind and tide and being progressively set in on a lee shore.

Mr Litchfield, who had bought the Maria Asumpta in 1980 after a film company asked him to provide two square-riggers, had no square rigger specific qualifications, said Mr Lissack. But he knew more about sailing the Maria Asumpta than anyone else, and spoke of the vessel as "his baby". The case continues.

DAILY POEM

Song to 'Springtime in the Mansion of Jade' (Yu-lou chun)

By Yan Ji-dao (mid 11th - early 12th century)

The east wind did it again, unsentimental in its designs; it blew the land full of petals, passionate red and fetching white. High in green mansions curtain shadows won't block away melanchoh - same mood as last year on the same day.

You'd never know how I've always botched You'd never know now: I ve aways ornered spring's last moments so badly, with wasted teurs climbing high places everywhere. But this time I'll have my golden flagon filled to the rim. How often drunk hereafter will I watch the blossoms all fall away?

Yan Ji-dao was the last master of the traditional Song Dynasty love lyric, associated with the singer-courtesans who worked in the "entertainment quarters" of cities such as the Song capital, Kai-feng. Stephen Owen's translations of Yan's poetry appear in his Anthology of Chinese Literature: Beginnings to 1911 (Norton, £18.95).

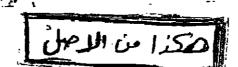
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Imre Karacs Bonn

Chancellor Helmut Kohl sought to quell a Euro-sceptic rebellion in the government ranks yes-terday by mortgaging his polit-cal future to hard-liners who nsist on the strictest interpreation of the Maastricht criteria. Although Germany has no chance of keeping its budget efficit below 3 per cent this year, Mr Kohl insisted the goal remained within his reach. "We are sticking to three-point-zero. That is no problem. And within

the schedule," he said in Munich, Addressing a conference of to a union of inflation and debt, business leaders, his words were and harm our nation, and ultiaithed primarily at Bavaria's Prine Minister, Edmund Stober, who has emerged as the most powerful adversary of economic and monetary union (Entu), even urging postpone-ment if the criteria were not met.

Mr Kohl had gone to Munich carrying a speech denouncing the "unhelpfulness" of government politicians who question the government's ability to deliver the magic numbers. But at a crucial point in the speech, he departed from the prepared text, serving up soothing words rather

Mr Stoiber was generous in victory, welcoming Mr Kohl to the inner sanctum of the "threepoint-nought" club with open arms. "I am happy that it will be three point zero," he said with not a hint of irony.

Most economists, European governments and even the Buntenths of 1 per cent do not matter, and are perplexed by the Bayarians' "decimal-fetishism"

"A euro that is permanently stable is in Germany's interests. week. "To pursue a course of relaxing the standards would lead mately European integration."

Mr Stoiber went on to promise "fierce resistance" to German attempts to fudge the to mobilise his MPs against monetary union. His remarks unleashed fury in the government. Mr Kohl let it be known discretely that he was hopping mad. Wolfgang Gerhardt, leader of the Free Democrats, the third party making up the coalition, charged Mr Stoiber with "anti-euro populism".



Word games: Helmut Kohl and Edmund Stoiber clash at the Bavarian Entrepreneurs Congress in Munich

Bundesbank has highlighted his government's inability to meet the Maastricht targets by bonest means, and, by extension, its commitment to a hard euro.

His conversion to 3.0 is likely to defuse the row for the mo-

recent confrontation with the Stoiber will not get off his hobby-horse, because the issue is part of a bigger game. In reality, decimals have nothing to do with the euro-debate, but a great deal with realpolitik. Mr Stoiber governs the most Euro-sceptic and most conservative Land in

The ruling Christian Social Union is in danger of losing its absolute majority in next year's elections to the Bavarian assembly. The biggest threat to Mr Stoiber's survival comes not from the left, but from mushrooming anti-party alliances

CSU, whose MPs prop up Mr cannot afford to go soft on the euro. Reason number two is more Byzantine. The person widely blamed for Germany's failure to meet the criteria is the The row could not have come ment, but stores up greater Germany. Emu is unpopular, es- which are bitterly opposed to all finance minister, Theo Waigel, at a worse time for Mr Kohl. The calamities for the future. Mr pecially among right-wing voters. things federal and European. also a Bavarian.

There is little love lost between the two CSU heavy-

weights, and Mr Stoiber seems to take pleasure in advertising his rival's shortcomings. The failure to deliver 3.0 this year will be the most obvious Waigel legacy, which is why Mr Stoiber will never let the magic number

Dutch to make brothels

The Dutch government is to legalise brothels in a move it says will help stem the growth of sex slavery and women-trafficking rackets operating out of Eastem Europe.

. The Dutch Justice minister, Winnie Sorgdrager, who was tabling a decriminalisation Bill yesterday, said the decision was a mature response to a phenomenon which is here to stay. The existence of prostitution is a fact which must also be accepted by the government. This the problem."

Ms Sorgdrager hopes the change in the law will for the first time allow police and law enforcement agencies to regu-late the sex industry and weed out the East European drug and organised crime rings who are thought to be controlling much of Holland's prostitution.

The Netherlands has for years adopted a policy of tolerance towards brothels. However, much though this might surprise tourists to Amsterdam's red-light area, brothels are still officially illegal. Under the Bill, which is expected to win majority backing in the Dutch parliament despite opposition from right-wing and Christian parties, brothels will become part of the mainstream taxpay-

Brothel keepers will have to apply for permits to run their inesses from local councils and will be subject to close

scrutiny. Keeping a register of broth-els will allow the authorities to keep a rigorous check on the dividuals working as prostitutes, half of whom are believed to be illegal immigrants. Penalties for illegal prostitution and child pornography rackets will be toughened under the new

European Commission officials who co-ordinate justice links between the member states are sceptical of the plans. "This is a peculiarly Dutch solution, and definitely not one which will be followed by othas big as the results announced er governments," commented

Defeated Berisha's supporters cling to gun-power

Andrew Gumbel Tirana

Die-hard supporters of Albaia's President Sali Berisha ented their frustration over the cushing electoral defeat yestirday with an intimidatory slow of force around Tirana. They showed special venom for foreign journalists in the capby barging into news confelences with guns and throwing

well-aimed punches. An Italian cameraman was Pary's headquarters on Monday night and had his equipment stolen, as party faithful lurled accusations of bias at the oreign press. An observer for Juman Rights Watch who had een critical of the Berisha

slapped and kicked during a news conference yesterday given by two senior party figures, Genc Pollo and Tritan Shehu.

Joanna Robertson, a reporter uling Democratic Party's for the BBC and the Guardian, was fired at several times by an unidentified man emerging from a Mercedes on a beach near Durres. She escaped unharmed after the owner of a interpreted as the last gasp of nearby restaurant, who knew her, chased the man away with blasts from his Kalashnikov.

Although President Berisha betten outside the Democratic has urged his supporters to accept the election result, which handed an overwhelming victory to the opposition Socialist Party, the men with guns have managed to clear the streets a good hour before the start of curfew at 10pm.

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On Monday night, men identified as members of the presidential guard drove up and down Tirana's main boulevard firing automatic weapons into the air. Another group climbed to the top of the Palace of Culture and created a cacopbony of machine-gun fire and

Such behaviour is being

an autocratic regime that knows the game is up. A number of notorious strongmen, including the police chief Agim Shehu and the head of the presidential guard, Xhahid Xhaferri, have left the country. President Berisha himself was described as looking dejected and lost by international officials who met him yesterday.

nevertheless exists, especially during the limbo period before full election results are known. Yesterday the would-be king of Albania, Leka Zogu, gave a press conference accompanied about 200 thugs, many of them armed, who chanted slogans and applauded as their hero complained he had been robbed of victory in Sunday's

tion of the monarchy. Some of the count appeared to be conthe thugs were identified as members of Mr Berisha's indications suggested there retinue.

Complete results are not extween far-flung constituencies and the central electoral commission in Tirana. The Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe said by the party on Monday.

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ducted professionally. Latest would be more than 30 run-offs in the second round this Sunpected until today because of day, and up to 20 re-runs bedelays in communication be-tween far-flung constituencies cause of irregularities or outbreaks of violence. The Socialists still appeared to have a commanding majority, but not

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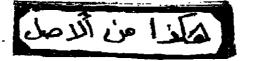
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'El Popo' tips ashtray into Mexico City smog

The Aztecs named it Popocatepetl - the Smoking Mountain. When it blew its top on Monday night, its worst eruption since 1925, it spewed smoke, ash, red-hot grit and mud - not lava - but gave a fright to the 20 million residents of Mexico City and the surrounding valley.

The eruption sent a mushroom cloud of smoke six miles above the crater and covered the capital. 33 miles away, with soggy ash during an evening rain storm. The capital's international airport closed down overnight, with passengers getting an unexpected detour to the resort of Acapulco, as the muddy ash smeared airliners' wind-

engines. On the ground, low vis-ibility caused at lest one high-way pile-up. Mexico City residents were advised to stay indoors or wear goggles and cover their noses if they went out. Many called emergency services for explanations of the strange cloud of wet ash that had replaced the city's renowned daytime smog.

It was as though someone had emptied a giant ashtray over the city and vulcanologists said the rain had helped prevent a disaster. The state of Puebla. one of three states which the 17,890ft Popocatepetl straddles, declared a "red alert" emergency, preparing to evacuate tens of thousands of residents. Most refused, saying dy ash smeared airliners' wind-screens and endangered aircraft homes, which happened during potential disaster.

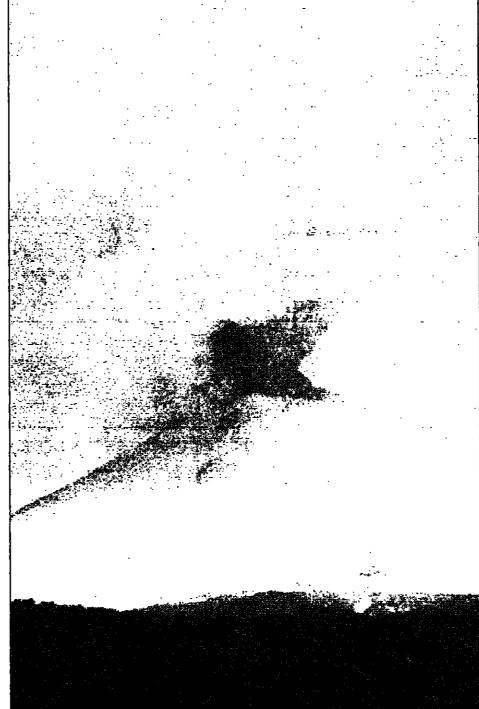
the last evacuation in 1994.

Hundreds of people clogged roads out of one town. Amecameca, but most stayed home or flocked to churches to pray. In the village of Santiago Xalizintla, many residents moved to higher ground after a volcanic mudslide, cooled by the rain, threatened lower-lying homes. Against the sound of the village church bells, a loud-speaker broadcast a priest's voice, urging residents to come in and pray that there not be the kind of full-scale eruption which

could bury the village. In Mexico City, some nongovernment experts criticised the authorities for playing down the danger and warned that neither the national nor state gov-ernments were prepared for a Some 300,000 peple, mostly farmers, live directly under the volcano - widely known as "el Popo" for short. It formed the backdrop to Malcolm Lowry's novel *Under the Volcano*.

The eruption began at opm evening rush hour in Mexico City - on Monday and lasted half an hour. The soggy ash caused havoc on the capital's roads, bringing visibility down to 100 yards and forcing mo-torists to stop constantly to wipe their windscreens.

By yesterday the situation was returning to normal. Mexico City residents went back to work. Teachers came to work early to clear ash from school playgrounds. Hospitals were busy with people who had suffered burning eyes or sore



Smoking giant: The cone of Popocatepeti dominates the landscape of Puebla state. On Monday, an eruption spewed ash over Mexico City, 30 miles away Photograph: AP

Up to 20 feared dead in island eruption

Olvesion, Montserrat (Reuters) - Montserrat officials fear as many as 20 people have been killed since a rumbling volcano rained superheated rocks and gas on the island. "It could be as high as 20

[dead]," Claude Hogan, a spokesman for the British territory's government said on Monday night. He spoke as new flows of extremely hot rocks and gases from the Soufrière Hills volcano, located in the southern part of the island, set more houses on fire. Deadly pyroclastic flows - fast-moving bursts of 500 Celsius volcanid material - devastated seven vil-lages in southern Montsorral

last Wednesday.

Mr Hogan said nine or 1)
bodies had been recovered and officials were fairly confident asother 10 people had been killed though their bodies had not yet been found, in the village if Farm's, which was razed almost to the ground in the disaster

"That village we know is all but consumed except for a few houses on the steeper side of the valley. The village is gone. Those 10 people were in there. we know," he said.

Mr Hogan said another 24 people were still considered

missing.

Rock and ash surged down the volcano's south-western flanks at mid-afternoon on Monday, sending a dark cloud into the sky that obliterated the sun, and roaring through evacuated villages near Plymouth, Montserrat's capital. There were no reports of additional

injuries. Baroness Liz Symons, undersecretary of state with responsibility for the Caribbean, visited Montserrat on Sunday and Monday and reiterated the British government's commitment to giving financial support to the tiny island and to developing its northern third, which

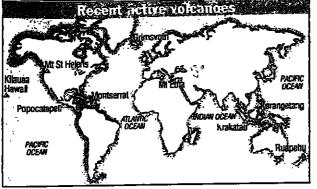
World's climate may change

Charles Arthur Science Editor

Though it might seem suspicious, there is no connection between the volcanic eruptions in Soufrière Hills, Montserrat, and Popocatepetl in Mexico apart from the accident of timing, and their effect on human populations. But it remains to be seen whether the Mexican eruption will have any effect on world climate; it might briefly slow global warming, but speed up the destruction of the ozone

Nor are they isolated events. "At any time there are about 15 to 25 active volcanoes somewhere in the world, and on average 50 different volcanoes erupting every year," said Pro- er crust and upper mantle. fessor Stephen Sparks of the ge-ology department at the collide and one is forced above the other; the lower plate even-University of Bristol.

Volcanoes are caused when pressures in molten magma below the Earth's crust break through weaknesses in the solid surface. Occasionally, the gives eruptions a value between



eruption of an undersea volcano can cause a tsunami which can flood coastal areas.

where solid crustal plates, floating on a magma layer in the lowcollide and one is forced above tually starts to melt and its material rises up to erupt through

the upper plate.
The Volcanic Explosivity In-

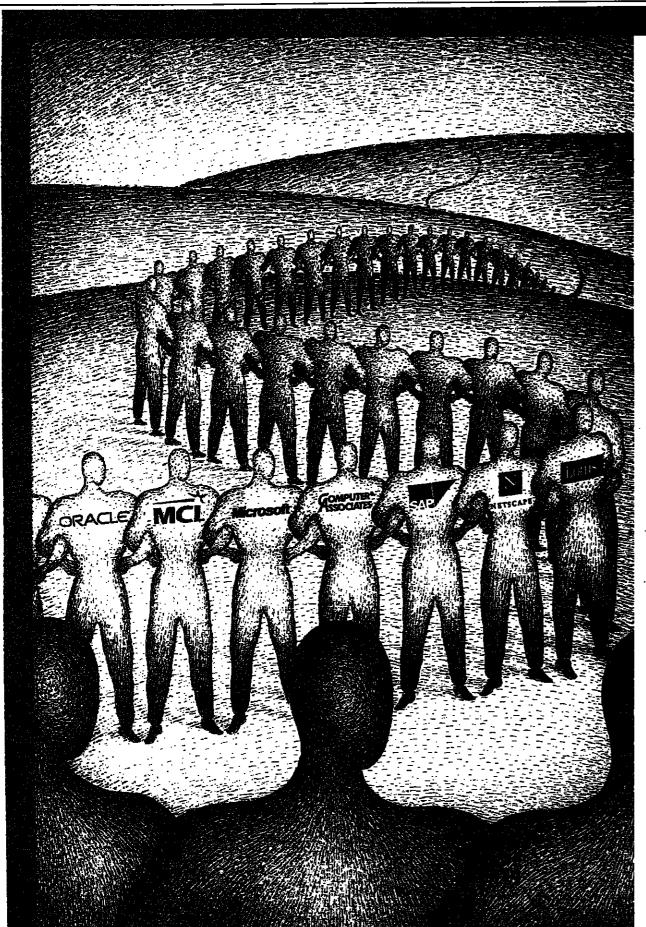
0 and 8, but is not wholly factual: it takes into account a general description (non-explosive Volcanoes can be created to very large), cloud column height, qualitative description (gentle to cataclysmic), and eruption type.

The biggest eruption in recorded history occurred in 1815, when the Tambora volcano in Indonesia exploded (at an estimated VEI of 7), producing 40 cubic kilometres of ash. The eruption killed 10,000

died from crop loss and famine Eruptions can also have dra-matic effects on world climate. When Mt Krakatoa, also in Indonesia, exploded in 1883, the following years were rainy and cold across Europe. Volcanoes can also effect the levels of ozone in the upper atmosphere.

The Montserrat volcano has been comparatively small, and the gasses and ash emitted are not particularly acidic; thus its effects on world weather will be minimal. Popocatepetl may be a different matter. "It hasn't gone on long enough yet, but it is sulphur-rich, which means it will produce acidic particles," said Professor Spark, "And it has pushed out ash to a fair altitude. But I suspect there's not yet enough expelled to cause global effects."

Despite the disruption and loss of life they cause, volcanoes can have benefits. Undersea ones can create entirely new land; and those upon the land, once their flows have cooled, can people, and another 80,000 offer very rich soils for farming.



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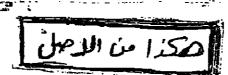
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> ing sands of unverifiable accusations. At the centre of the claims is a group of Arkansas state troopers who belonged to Mr Clinton's security detail in 1991, when he was state governor and when Ms Jones says she was called to a room at the Excelsior hoel and asked for oral sex.

Several of the troopers had claimed

India's master of corruption plots his revenge from his post. Mr Yadav is the night-mare of Indian caste politics made float The Indian caste politics made

India's nost scandalously bent politician, Laloo Yadav, Chief Minister of - Yadav is also the name of the caste. and cowherding their prescribed oc-cupation - he took advantage of the the lot of the poor. So he has done: the impoverished state of Bihar, finally got his come-uppance on 27 April, when he was told he was to crumbling of the Congress Party and the bitterness of Bihar's poor to bebe prosecuted for his role in a £1.6bn come Chief Minister in 1990. On 21 July he is likely to be ar-

The secret of his appeal is simple: the idea, repeated like a mantra, that I am as you are. He slops about in white pyjamas, betel juice dribbling down his lips, cursing like a rustic roughneck. I am as you are, he says - and so saying he has plundered his

flesh. The child of illiterate cowherds countryside; inter-caste violence is endemic. When he came to power, Mr he distributed £34m of saris and dhotis to them. Once he met a beg-gar on the roadside and packed him off to a five-star hotel for a bath and

> He hates attending to files, so thousands of them gather dust. He fills the bureaucracy with cronies and the better civil servants quit in disgust; he recruits 6,000 Yadavs as policemen to keep order his way.

Chief Minister, and the scandals over which he has presided include a £300m theft from the bitumen fund, the transfer of £600m of stateowned land to a handful of builders and a £150m drugs scandal. But they

are dwarfed by the siphoning of £1.6bn out of the state treasury through a fund intended to subsidise the purchase of animal fodder. Although evidence was destroyed in a fire and potential witnesses died in suspicious circumstances, in April

Mr Yadav learned he will not cheat

justice indefinitely. After blustering

and refusing to resign, he has ap-

kicked sideways into the Home Min-istry. That Mr Singh has been sacrificed despite Mr Yadav's waning influence is due to the fact that in his Il-month tenure he alienated nearly all the country's most powerful politicians.

In contrast to the compliant types who held the post in recent years, he went after crooked politicians and businessmen with righteous fury: one source claims he destroyed 43 political careers, though successful prosecutions have been few. Those he has

He is Finance Minister as well as hief Minister, and the scandals wer which he has presided include resource Mr Yadav, was on Monday for parliament. Now the politicians for parliament. Now the politicians have got their own back. Since Indi-ra Gandhi's time, directorship of the CBI has been in the gift of the prime minister and Prime Minister IK Guminister and rinne Minister IK Gu-jral has obliged Mr Yadav - who hap-pens to be president of Mr Gujral's own party, the Janata Dal - and many others in his 14-party United Front

by removing Mr Singh.
Mr Singh is despised in the capital. But someone had to tell Lalon Yaday where to get off. Whether Mr Singh's successor will have those sort of guts will soon be discovered. his prosecutor sacked



Yadav: Enjoyed seeing his

has been removed without warning home state with such ruthlessness that Sex scandal saga swings in Clinton's favour

Mary Dejevsky

Peter Popham Delhi

embezziement scandal.

rested. But he appears to have got partial revenge: the man responsible for the decision to prosecute him.

Joginder Singh, Director of the Cen-

tral Bureau of investigation (CBI).

As he muddled saga of the President and Paula Jones - the Arkansas re-ceptionist who alleges improper ad-vances in a Little Rock hotel room chunters slowly in the direction of the courtroom confrontation for which all America lusts, the balance of advantage is unexpectedly shifting in President Bill Clinton's favour.

In recent days, a series of new claims has called into question some of the allegations made against Mr Clinton - allegations regarded hitherto as the only solid elements in ever-shift-

that they regularly procured women for Mr Clinton while he was governor of Arkansas, and kept guard outside ho-tel rooms while he took his pleasure. They had supplied this information to the anti-Clinton magazine, The American Speciator, among others, which printed its expose about Mr Clinton's Arkansas years soon after he came to office in 1993.

Now, one of the troopers, Ronald Anderson, stands accused by his one-time lawyer in the New Yorker magazine of wrongly verifying his colleagues' tales of Mr Clinton's infidelities in the hope that they would all profit. A second trooper, Danny Ferguson, who is said to have taken Ms Jones to the hotel room, reportedly tried to sell his sto-

Then last week, the generally pro-Clinton Washington Post disclosed that Kenneth Starr, the independent prosecutor appointed to look into anoth-



Stars: Bill Clinton at the show 'A funny thing happened on the way to the forum' in New York Photograph: Reuters

gations to include Mr Clinton's past sex-life. This time, too, the information came from former state troopers, who said they had recently been ques-

tioned on the subject.

A third shift in Mr Clinton's favour was provided by the resignation of Daniel Traylor as Ms Jones's Arkansas lawyer. He said he disliked the approach of the Jones family, and com-Kenneth Starr, the independent prosecutor appointed to look into another Clinton "scandal"—the Whitewater immly of the view that Mr Clinton's past acteristics" on Mr Clinton's private land deal - was extending his investi- sex-life is none of Mr Starr's business. parts - had not featured in her origi-

nal testimony to him. Thus is Ms Jones's veracity called into question. The conjunction of these developments raises many questions. Why is the truthfulness of the troopers being challenged now? Did anyone suggest to Mr Traylor that he might step down? And what has Mr Clinton's lawyer, Bob Bennett, been doing recently?

significant shorts

Eta hostages freed after months in captivity

Two long-term hostages held by Eta terrorists were freed within hours of each other yesterday, in the most spectacular development for months in the the Spanish povernment's campaign against Basque separatists. Cosme Delclaux, a lawyer from a prosperous Basque family, was found tied to a tree near Durango following a tip-off, after being held captive for more than seven months. Shortly afterwards, the prison officer Jose Antonio Ortega Lara was found in a cell after a record 18 months in captivity. was freed after a raid by the paramilitary Civil Guard on an industrial warehouse near Mondragon, it is thought that security forces had located Mr Ortega's whereabouts weeks ago, and delayed a rescue operation until Mr Delclaux was safe. Mr Delclaux's family is reported to have paid a ransom of £50m some time ago. Elizabeth Nash - Madrid

Palestinians shot in 'pig' protest Israeli soldiers shot and wounded at least 24 Palestinians in another flareup of violence over posters depicting the Prophet Mohammad as a pig. Two Israeli soldiers were

wounded in an explosion outside a Jewish settler

compound in the divided West Bank city. Dozens of Arab youths broke away from a peaceful protest which Palestinian dignitaries called in response to the discovery of the posters, and threw rocks and petrol bombs at soldiers and settlers. Soldiers responded by tiring rubber-coated metal bullets. Israeli police on Saturday arrested a 25-year-old Jewish woman from Jerusalem on suspicion of pasting the posters.

Belarus bans private lawyers

Belarus' authoritarian president banned private lawyers from practice. President Alexander Lukashenko's order requires all lawyers to apply for a state licence if they want to continue working. The licensed lawyers will work with government-controlled associations of lawyers. The order

It's official. Everyone who travels in this luxury air-conditioned saloon will be cool.

Day one and the new recruits wake of life

Protest passes peacefully as Tung seeks to reassure

Teresa Poole Hong Kong

Hong Kong's first day under Chinese rule brought the chance to rally against the Peking government, applaud new commitments on social welfare and join in a mass singalong aimed at setting a new world karaoke record. And all of this in torrential rain.

The afternoon demonstration, with a lead placard reading Put an end to one-party dictatorship, build a democratic China", saw an estimated 3,000 people march in the first test of tolerance in the new era. It represented the first such protest on Chinese soil since the June 1989 Tiananmen Square crackdown. The protesters walked through the central business district, shouting "We want democracy, we want it now".

New legislation passed in the early hours of yesterday requires demonstrations to obtain prior permission from the police. This rally had secured an official go-ahead and, while there was a heavy police pres-ence, it passed off peacefully.

As life attempted to get back to normal, Tung Chee-hwa, Hong Kong's new leader, outlined in a lengthy speech the pri-orities for the new Special Administrative Region (SAR) government. After the previous day's emphasis on patriotism, Mr Tung yesterday got down to the business of how he intended to run Hong Kong, hopeful that by addressing the issues which dominate people's daily lives, he can begin to establish his legitimacy.

Beneath the surface of prosperity, there are insidious threats which are taxing our courage and determination." Mr Tung warned. "We have to resolve a series of social problems arising from a growing and ageing pop-ulation, meet the pressing demands for more and better create, while stressing that Hong

ployment dislocation due to the

restructuring of the conomy."
Hong Kong's elderly "deserved respect", said Mr Tung.
"We would encourage families to live with their elderly members, through adjustments to the public housing allocation policies," he added.

Mr Tung tried to balance calls for a better understanding of China with the need to reassure



'We strive for liberty, but not at the expense of the law'

Tung Chee-hwa gardless of race or colour".

Hong Kong people that the territory's autonomy would be respected by Peking. "Due to our long separation, there is a general lack of understanding about China among the people of Hong Kong", and this must be addressed "to create

mutual trust and respect". On the question of Hong Kong's political development, he affirmed that "democracy is the hallmark of a new era for Hong Kong". He outlined an image of the sort of conservative Chinese society which he would like to Kong was a cosmopolitan society and must retain its international outlook.

We will continue to encourage diversity in our society, but we must also reaffirm and respect the fine traditional Chinese values including filial piety, love for the family, modesty and integrity, and desire for continuous improvement. We value plurality, but discourage open confrontation. We strive for liberty, but not at the ex-pense of the rule of law. We respect minority views, but are mindful of wider interests. We protect individual rights, but also shoulder collective re-

sponsibilities," he said.
President Jiang Zemin also adopted a less jingoistic tone than on Monday night, seeking this time to reassure Hong Kong that it would retain a distinct system from the mainland for 50 years. He spoke of an "ul-timate aim" of Hong Kong having an elected chief execu-tive and legislature – but gave no idea of the acceptable timescale. He too offered an inclusive message for Hong Kong's non-Chinese residents, promising that "everyone will be entitled to the rights and freedom as protected by law, re-

As the first day under Chinese rule drew to a close last night, there was still enough energy left for another party. Up to a million people lined both sides of Victoria Harbour for a HK\$100m (£7.8m) extravaganza laser and firework show, which saw 20 tonnes of explosives light up the night sky. And, being Hong Kong, there was something a little different to wind up the evening. The organisers orchestrated a citywide singalong, in pursuit of an accolade fit for the new era - a Guinness Book of Records entry for the world's largest mass



Test of tolerance: Some of the 3,000 demonstrators on the streets of Hong Kong yesterday calling for the end of China's 'one-party dictatorship' Photograph: Reuters

Worries temper the optimism.

Hong Kong

And now, what? That question now hangs over Hong Kong. But there is little chance of a

speedy answer.
This will be a period of testing the limits, on both sides. Thousands of Hong Kongers tested the limits yesterday. iemonstrating under the slogan "Build a democratic China!" There were no arrests - as there would have been, within seconds, if such a protest march had taken place in mainland China. But it was clear from the start that change will be much more gradual, when it comes.

Mainland China, which has never administered a freethinking society even at one re-move, will undoubtedly try to sec with how far it can push Hong Kongers. "One country, two systems" is the official pledge. On the economy, China is undoubtedly serious. In the much quoted phrase, China has no reason to kill the goldenegg-laying goose, by tampering with Hong Kong's muney-mak-ing possibilities. On politics, however, it is still unclear whether China understands that politically free-range eggs are liable to be much tastier.

Lce Cheuk-yan, an organisers of yesterday's protest march in Hong Kong, insisted that there was a basic principle at stake. "What we've done in the past, we should be able to do in the future." New public order laws, passed by Hong Kong's new China-appointed legislature, make it more difficult to protest. And yet the official line appears to be that all will still be allowed. And yet, Tung Chee-hwa, the new Peking-approved chief executive, spoke in ambiguous terms yesterday when he talked of valuing plurality, but discouraging "open confrontation".

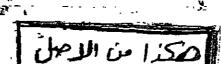
It would be wrong to desirabe Hong Kong today as a place of pessimism. There is guardisatisfaction at the obvious new truth: Hong Kong beloade to China, just as it always should have done. Trickier is the goe tion of whether Hong Kon wishes to be part of the People Republic of China - in other words, subject to the regime which currently rules China That regime believes itsels to be eternal, but may in reality ha

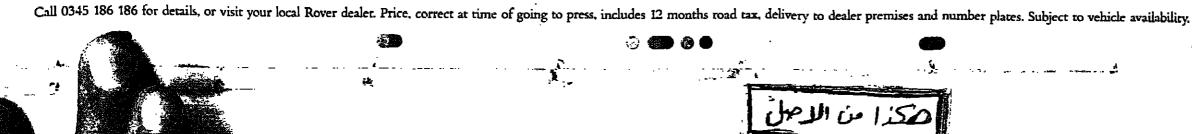
Hong Kong is a place clina ging worries, combined with a treordinary optimism. Man Hong Kongers are grateful for what the outgoing governor Chris Patten, did for democra tic rights in Hong Kong. parture of the Mr Patten and t removal of the last royal creacross the territory, make it eier for Hong Kongers. Now the can roll up their sleeves not jet economically but also politically, knowing that the future es in their own hands, and is notififected by anybody, benevolately or otherwise, from London

Theoretically, the future des not just depend on Hong King. Yesterday, the Chinese flaghas being raised on official buildings all over Hong Kong, China, I can be argued, might change flong Kong's future with just a few tanks, if it decided that the democrats were becoming too bold - just as Moscow sought to do in Czechoslovakia in 1968 or as China itself did, when lethally crushing the Tiananmen prodemocracy intwement in 1989. But the Soviet invasion rebounded on Moscow. And the chapter on the legacy of Tiananmen is by no means finished. Peking's official version is that Tiananmen Square is now forgotten by all in China. But Peking's actions in suppressing dissent make it clear that Chi na itself knows this to be a lie.









Hong Kong 3 1 handover

to life in the great People's Republic



New order: The PLA rumbling through the streets of Sheung Shui, New Territories, in the early hours of yesterday morning

Peking turns attention to Taiwan

Peking

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Within hours of returning to Peking after taking possession of Hong Kong, China's top leaders set their sights on Taiwan, the most elusive prize in their quest to fully reunite their country.

Both Premier Li Peng and President Jiang Zemin, speaking in Peking yesterday, urged Taiwan to consider following in Hong Kong's footsteps back to the embrace of the mainland's Com-

Speaking to several thousand guests at an afternoon reception in Peking's Great Hall of the People, Mr Li praised the "one country, two systems" formula under which Hong Kong returned to Chinese sovereignty.

He said the formula, devised by the [on Taiwan] will never accept such a forlate Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping, is

Before a crowd of more than 70,000 gathered in Peking's Workers' Stadium for yet another gala celebration, Mr Jiang likewise urged Taiwan to consider reunification. "We hope that the Taiwanauthorities will, setting store by the overall interests of our nation, truly return to the one China position," Mr Jiang said

Taiwan, seen by Peking as a renegade province since the end of the Chinese civil war in 1949, has long rejected any suggestion of reuniting with anything but a democracy. Officials reiterated their unwillingness to contemplate such a move with China under its existing system. The Republic of China government

mula," government spokesman David suitable for Hong Kong and Macau and, Lee said after Mr Jiang hailed the "one he added, "it can also work for Taiwan". country, two systems" concept as a

Taiwan Vice President Lien Chan, meanwhile, said reunification would become possible only if the mainland adopts multiparty democracy, a formula Mr Lien called "one country, one good

Yesterday, Peking was unusually quiet as residents took advantage of a second consecutive day off to recover from a long night spent celebrating the handover. Few cars plied the city's streets, and morning papers were late in reaching the news-stands, but Pekingers remained ex-cited about the dramatic events that continued unfolding in Hong Kong.

"I stayed up watching television un-til six this morning so I could see the army cross over into Hong Kong," said a woman who did not have the day off from her work as a street sweeper.

"I feel very proud today, and I think all Chinese people must feel proud too," In full agreement, the Communist Par-

ty newspaper People's Daily proclaimed that now is the right time for the Chinese nation to wipe out the disgrace of the past more than 150 years and feel proud and elaied!"

State-run television continued rebroadcasting highlights from its marathon overnight coverage of the midnight formalities and of the rainsoaked daybreak entry into Hong Kong of 4,000 People's Liberation Army troops.

Why a charmed land will still work its magic

I am starting to wonder whether I am the English Patient. So-licitous friends and well meaning people keep asking me if I am all right. How do I feel? What am I going to do?
They ask because it is as-

sumed that as a long-time resident of Hong Kong I should feel both saddened and worried by the departure of the British regime. We Brits are presumably expected to leave, trailing somewhere in the wake of Britannia as it carries the Prince of Wales and Chris Patten part of the way back to Blighty.

Of course the change of sov-ereignty is momentous and, let's face it, it will never be the same for the Brits again.

Some of the things which will go should have gone long ago. It is absurd that Chinese defendants and plaintiffs should have to stand in a court of law conducted entirely in a foreign

It is equally absurd that British people should have special residence privileges; and how can anyone defend a system, which is anyway almost ex-tinct, under which British expatriates were paid more than their Chinese counterparts, while knowing less? So, goodbye, and good rid-

dance, to all that. Hopefully it does not mean hello to discrimination against all things British. I rather think it does not. These last few, pretty wrenching days have revealed a surprisingly warm attitude to the departing colonial power. I say surprising because, in my experience, the word that generally sums up attitudes to things British is indifference. I have never had what might be described as an "anti-British experience". This seems rerkable because there is a certain logic to a colonised people feeling ill-disposed towards

their colonisers. However, and here's the rub: Hong Kong Chinese people do not act or feel like a people under colonial occupation. There is very little of that colonial cringe which was a major fea-

Stephen Vines reveals why he has no intention of quitting his home

ture of Britain's other imperial adventures. On the contrary, the Chinese in these parts can be every bit as haughty, self confident and arrogant as the Brits who still believe that God is an

Englishman.
The departing Governor,
Chris Patten, described Hong
Kong as a "Chinese society with British characteristics' He has a point; but the over-

It is hard to believe I am now living under a regime controlled by the Communist Party'

whelming impression I have always had about Hong Kong is that it is essentially a Chinese society. It may well have been called a British colony until yesterday but I have always felt very much a foreigner, even after many years of residence.

It is hard to imagine Hong Kong will become that much more Chinese, and that people like me will feel that much more alien. Nevertheless, I expect the culture to become more self-consciously Chinese. But I hope, perhaps naïvely, that a self-confident Chinese culture will be sufficiently secure to more easily accommodate foreign influences.

We have been waiting for the handover so long that there was always a danger it might be an anti-climax. It was not. Despite

the vulgarity of some of the celebrations, the goon-like behaviour of some senior Chinese officials, and the rather gauche ceremony marking Britain's departure, only the most drearily cynical person could fail to sense the feeling of history in the

It is hard to believe that I am now living under a regime controlled by the Chinese Com-munist Party and it certainly

does not seem very real. I woke up to hear Martin Lee, the Democratic Party's leader, saying on the radio that he was resolutely determined not to concede that things had to change. He said he drove to the studio in the same car, down the same roads and met the same people he has met before. Why therefore should he change his ways?

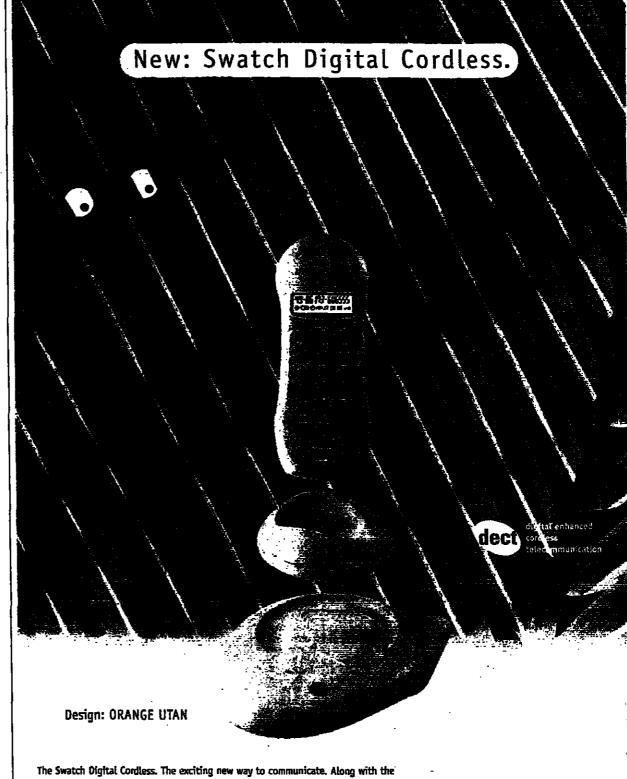
If the man branded as a subversive by the Chinese government sees no need to change his ways, I find it hard to believe that a lowly Brit living deep in Hong Kong's breathtaking countryside needs to see the new era as an occasion for maior upbeavals.

Yet there is an expectation that I should be thinking of leaving. Even people I do not know, ask me if I'm intending to go. Maybe they know something which I don't. Maybe this will no longer be a place for for-eigners, especially those who earn a living from reporting the news. Not knowing what the future hold seems to be an insufficient reason for assuming the worst or, even more foolishly, to start jumping before being pushed. Inertia has always served me very well in the past. I trust that even in the new Hong Kong it will work its magic one more time.

All I really know is that this place has been extremely good to me. I've had opportunities to do things here which I simply could not dream of doing in Britain. The reason why this is so is not because I am somehow special - it is because Hong Kong is very special indeed.

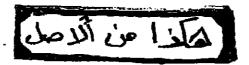
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Hassan

Sir Joshua Hassan, Gibraltar's first Chief Minister, dominated the life of the Rock throughout a political career that spanned 40 years. With his encouragement, Gibraltarians, who for nearly three centuries had passively fulfilled their role as loval servants of the British garrison, developed a proud sense of identity and a desire for emancipation that continues to cause headaches both in Whitehall and in Madrid.

He was the first Gibraltarian leader to assert that only the inhabitants of the Rock had the right to decide their future. He was, in that sense, in the mould of a number of leaders throughout the British Empire who contributed to the process of post-war decolonisation. One of the last steps in that process took place in Hong Kong on the day he died.

Young Joshua Hassan was spurred to political action by the painful experience in the Second World War when thousands of non-combatant Gibraltarians, women, children and old men most of the Rock's population - were shipped off to be billeted around the world, to Madeira, Northern Ireland. Jamaica and London.

Hassan, who volunteered as a gunner in the Gibraltar Defence Force, shared the suspicion of many that Britain was quietly planning not to bring the evacuees home, a decision that that would have condemned thousands of families to misery and destroyed the community.

Hassan, trained as a lawyer in the Middle Temple and called to the Bar in 1939, launched the Association for the Advancement of Civil Rights in 1942 to campaign for the evacuees' return. Many Gibraltarians of a certain age recount with pain the uncertainty of a childhood spent far from home, without their fathers, an experience reflected in a myriad exotic regional accents that spice Gibraltarians' spoken English.

The campaign's success spawned a wider movement that combined aspirations for emancipation with a passionate desire to remain British. This paradoxical combination encapsulates the political will of most Gibraltarians today, and is explained by the fact that the Rock's desire for a voice of its own, apart from Britain, is matched only by its fierce refusal to be ceded to Spain, in accordance with the 1713 Treaty

Twice in the 1960s, Hassan regarded as a radical if not a revolutionary - led petitioners from the Rock to testify in New York before the United Nations Committee on Decolonisation, insisting that the vast majority of his compatnots wanted to remain British. In 1967 he put his principle to the test with a referendum on the colony's future. The public's verdict was overwhelming – 12,138 votes in favour of remaining with Britain, and only 44 votes against.

With Britain but not under Britain. The Right to our Land were the twin slogans that inspired Hassan as head of the city and legislative councils for most of the years between 1945 and 1969. The bodies merged into the House of Assembly in the constitution of 1969, his crowning achievement.

At the core of the constitution, which continues to govern the Rock, is Britain's pledge that it would "never enter into arrangements under which the people of Gibraltar would pass under the sovereignty of another state against their freely and democratically expressed wishes". This pledge, as today's Chief Minister, Peter Caruana, said recently, "has been repeated to us by every successive British government and forms the core of policy towards Spain's persistent claims to sovereignty.

In response to this gesture of

defiance, Spain's dictator Francisco Franco sealed off the border. Links between Spain and Gibraltar remained cut until 1985, more than nine years after Franco's death, when Madrid was negotiating its entry into the European Community. After five years as chief min-

ister. Hassan lost the post in the 1969 general election - his only electoral defeat - when his party failed by one seat to win a majority. But he was voted back in 1972 and remained for the next 15 years. The manner of his departure from office cast something of a shadow over his long career. It followed the breakdown in 1987 of the 1983 airport agreement with Madrid. In 1987. Gibraltar was excluded from a Europe-wide attempt to liberalise air travel - the price for preventing the collapse of the initiative - and its airport was closed for flights to anywhere except Britain. This was a terrible blow to Gibraltar, and prompted mass protests in which Hassan was accused of betrayal. He retired from politics soon afterwards, citing personal rea-

Joshua Hassan was always an open and accessible man, greeting people on the street of his little colony, and claiming to know the names of most of them, and never forgetting the working-class unions who launched him into power. His weakness, critics say, was to allow his deep loyalty to Britain to translate into an over-conciliatory attitude to

sons, aged 71 and past his prime.



he ended up believing in everything they tried to sell him. The establishment swallowed him up," is the verdict of his political opponent for more than 15 vears, the intransigent old rarhorse Joe Bossano.

Bossano, who succeeded as chief minister until his own defeat last year, remembered his old adversary yesterday "with tory of nearly 300 years in old adversary yesterday "with great personal affection". He recalled: "He had this great ability when I was leader of the opposition to take me aside and try to win me over. I fell for it every time."

Elizabeth Nash

In 1983 Sir Joshua Hassan interviewed me for a Gibraliar government job, writes Kenneth Bain. "Just as well you have come in the morning," he said.
"That's when I am Chief Min-British colonial indulgences. politicians on the Rock were initially deemed to be part-time -

With passion, he described himself as "100 per cent Sephardic Jew. Hassan is normally an Arab first name; but, in the Jewish tradition, it is a surname. In my case, there is no possible confusion. With first names like Joshua and Abraham, nobody could think I am anything

Gibraltar. They arrived from Morocco in 1728; and some came earlier from Minorca. "It was my policy to develop good working relations with both Britain and Spain," he told me. "That does not mean that there was any give-away. But we have to live with the Spaniards.

They are our neighbours. I doubt whether Gibraltar would be viable as an independent state against the wishes of 40 million Spaniards. Our future is ister. In the afternoon, I go back bound up with both Britain to my law practice J.A. Hassan and Spain. The British conhead of chambers) to earn some connection is desirable: the money." In one of those discreet reality of the geography is inescapable.

"My objective was to try to convince the Spanish to accept the Foreign Office.

and were paid accordingly.

Twelve years later in 1995, it lead them away from an attitude was my turn to interview him.

the British Gibraltarian and to marriage dissolved 1969), 1969 er. During the seven years he spent in that invigorating environment he learnt to observe strang lung research.

Twelve years later in 1995, it lead them away from an attitude towards us that is now 300 ters); died Gibraltar 1 July 1997.

years old. On the other hand, the treaty of Utrecht is Britain's title to Gibraltar. So Britain has to respect and adhere to its obligations under it. The day that they cease to do so, the Spanish would have every right to walk in our door."

What, I asked Hassan finally, did he think was the destiny of Gibraltar?

'I am not a prophet," he said. "Only an expired politician. So we shall have to wait and see."

Joshua Ahraham Hassan, lawyer and politician: born Gibrahar 21 August 1915; called to the Bar. Middle Temple 1939: HM Deputy Coroner, Gibraltar 1941-64; Mayor of Gibraltar 1945-50, 1953-69; member, Executive Council. Gibraltar 1950-64, Chief Member, Legislative Council 1950-64: LVO 1954: CBE 1957, GBE 1988; QC (Gibraltar) 1961; Kt 1963: Chief Minister of Gibraltar 1964-69, 1972-87; Leader of the Opposition, Gibraltur House of Assembly 1969-72; KCMG 1986; Chairman, Gibraltar Bar Council 1992-95; married 1945 Daniela Salazar (two daughters: marriage dissolved 1969). 1969

Professor Leonard Strang

Leonard Strang was a man of prodigious talent - passionate-ly engaged with life in all its

aspects to the last.

The term "paediatricianscientist" may come close to encompassing the scope of a professional life devoted to research into the problems of the newborn infant and to the care of sick children; but it fails to identify Strang's unique ability to fuse these too often disparate disciplines of research and practice - bringing his understanding of physiological science to bear on clinical problems long before the term "translational research" had had been invented. Nor can a professional label convey the idea of the whole man the strength of his personality. his love of literature, his passionate interest in politics all of which made him such a wonderful friend and colleague.

Leonard Strang was born in 1925 in East Kilbride, outside Glasgow, of Scottish parents his father from a local farming family and his mother from a family long established in Donside, near Aberdeen. When he was five, the family moved to Newcastle, where Leonard was to remain more or less continuously until the age

It was in Newcastle, at the age of eight and before the advent of antibiotics, that he suffered an illness which nearly killed him and was to have a profound influence on the rest of his life. An infection of the mastoid spread to the bloodstream and subsequently destroyed both hips - leaving his legs weakened and wasted in a manner which many later mistook for the

effects of polio. Months of illness were followed by prolonged convalescence, during which he read (and was read to) a great deal. Later, he was to identify this time with the awakening of his love of literature. It also marked the beginning of his fight to reestablish his life and to succeed in spite of his disability. Although he was left able to "walk" only with the aid of shoulder crutches, such was his resolve that he was playing cricket by the age of 10, albeit with another boy as his runner (it was a great personal triumph when, 19 years later, he was able to walk down the aisle aided only by a pair of walking sticks

on the occasion of his marriage). Schooling at the Royal Grammar School, Newcastle, was followed by a medical education at Durham and Newcastle, graduating in 1949. At Newcastle Strang undertook his postgraduate training in paediatrics in the department founded by James Spence, a supreme clinician who, coincidentally, had helped to save Strang's sight when he had been so ill some 20 years earlithe natural history of disease and to respect the instincts of the mother in relation to her child's well-being ("Ask the mother" was Spence's advice) and it was there that he developed the ability to apply basic scientific principles to the man-agement of disease - the hallmark of his future clinical

After Newcastle came a move to the Royal Postgradu-ate Medical School at Hammersmith and the development of a research interest in the function of the lungs - initially in normal and asthmatic children and subsequently in newborn infants. A year at Harvard as a Research Fellow sparked an interest in the control of the lung circulation in the newborn - work which he continued on return to the Hammersmith.

Although the precise focus was to change later, he was now working in the area which was to dominate his research career and was later to be his major contribution to knowledge - how the lungs of the haby, which are liquid-filled and inactive as they develop in the womb, adapt to the requirements of breathing at

It was at University College Medical Hospital, then separate from University College London, that Leonard Strang carried out this programme of work which established his international reputation; appointed Reader in Paediatrics in 1963, he was in 1967 the first Professor of Paediatrics to be appointed at a London undergraduate medical school.

Great advances in understanding which result from research are rarely the work of one person but they can be the result of the inspiration of one person. And so it was with Strang, who led a research team which, over a period spanning two decades, systematically studied the mechanisms responsible for liquid movement across the internal cellular lining of the infant lung: describing how it is formed within the lung during development (acting as a template for lung growth) and later demonstrating how adrenaline, secreted by

stress of being born, stimulates the absorption of liquid via specialised molecular channels to make way for air at the start

of breathing.
This work opened up an entirely new area of lung research and, fittingly, he was awarded the James Spence Medal in 1990 by the British Paediatric Association (now the Royal College of Puediatrics and Child Health) for "outstanding contributions to the advancement of paediatric knowledge".

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Just as important as the work itself was the role Strang played in training a series of young pac-diatricians - to be pacdiatricianscientists in their own right. It is no accident that of those that worked with him over the years no fewer than eight have gone on to head departments of their

A lifetime's fascination with the physiological mechanisms of the foetal and newborn lung did not preciude a genuine commitment to the care of his patients and great skill in the delivery of that care - in this respect he was a true disciple of James Spence. Infinite patience and concern characterised Strang's relationships with parents and children alike. With friends and colleagues he could be irascible, but his outbursts were rarely irrational or

random. Strang cared deeply, particularly where injustice, ignorance or incompetence were concerned, and he was not slow to make these feelings known, This side of his character was not infrequently displayed in committee and, for those who may have used Strang as a role model, the example of how far he could go to achieve what he thought right has always provided considerable leeway.

A liberal Francophile, among whose greatest pleasures was to read Proust and Stendhal in the original, Leonard Strang moved to France when he retired in 1989 - settling happily in the village of Volx in Haute Provence with Susan, whom he had married six years earlier following the tragic death of his first wife. Madeleine.

Richard Olver

Leonard Birnie Strang, paediatrician, physiologist, teacher: hom East Kilbride, Renfrewshire 13 May 1925; Registrar and First Assistant, Department of Child Health, Durham University 1953-59; Medicul Research Council Clinical Research Fellow, Royal Postgraduate Medical School. Hammersmith 1959-61, Senior Lecturer and Consultant in Paediatrics 1962-63; Research Fellow; Harvard Medical School 1961versity College Hospital Medical School (University College London) 1963-67, Professor of Paediatrics 1967-89 (Emeritus); married 1954 Madeleine Allen (died 1981; one son, three daughters), 1983 Susan Plant; died Vols, France 24 June 1997.

Bishop Joseph Zong Huaide



Days before the reunification of Hong Kong with the rest of China, Bishop Joseph Zong Huaide died in Peking of a heart attack. The bishop had worked on establishing links between the Roman Catholic Church in the former British colony and the government-sponsored Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association.

For many years Zong had headed the CPA, the Church which broke away from the jurisdiction of the Vatican in the 1950s under pressure from the Chinese Communist government. Although he had suffered at the hands of the regime during the Cultural Revolution, Zong believed that compromise with the government and

a national Catholic Church free of Vatican control were goals worth pursuing. As well as heading the CPA itself, he was also chairman of the Bishops' Conference of the CPA. Zong was born in eastern

Shandong province in 1917 into a family that could trace its Catholic roots back 200 years. After school and junior seminary in Zhoucun he entered the major seminary in the provin-cial capital Jinan in 1938, being ordained priest in 1943. He was then sent to work in a local village parish.

He served as vicar of the Zhoucun diocese from 1949 to 1958. These were turbulent times for the Catholic Church

in the wake of the Communist takeover. All foreign missionaries were arrested and then expelled. Bishops, priests and lay people who remained faithful to the Vatican were imprisoned as the state moved to assert control over the Catholic Church. Those prepared to break their ties with the Vatican were allowed to form the Catholic Patriotic Association, which was under tight government control.
Zong's acceptance of a na-

tional Catholic Church soon led to promotion. He was consecrated Bishop of Zhoucun in June 1958, one of the first of the new bishops ordained without Vatican approval. However, this did not spare him as times got tougher. In the wake of the un-leashing of the Cultural Revo-lution by fanatical Maoist students in 1966, Zong was one of the many clergy of all religious groups to be arrested. All China's churches were closed and religious books and artefacts were destroyed amid the frenzy of destruction. Zong was to spend the next decade at a reformthrough-labour farm, not reemerging until the late 1970s. Following his release he re-

sumed his church work at a time when life was getting easier for the government-approved religious groups, including the Pa-triotic Catholics. At the Third National Congress of the CPA, in May 1980, Zong was elected

chairman of the organisation, indicating the trust placed in him by the state authorities.

He later became head of the national Catholic seminary in Beijing and a member of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference. From the late 1980s he was acting head of the Bishops' Conference, becoming its chairman in 1992. Zong's work - most of which was based in Peking - left him little time to care for his diocese of Jinan and Zhoucun.

Despite his high-profile po-sition within the CPA. Zong was a timid and self-effacing figure. He was clearly not the person taking decisions in the organisation and his position as CPA

leader meant that he was not often invited abroad by other Catholic organisations. Last month, he welcomed to

Peking a delegation of Hong Kong's leading Catholics, including Coadjutor Bishop Joseph Zen Ze-kiun and Aux-iliary Bishop John Tong Hon. The talks were polite, but delicate, and concentrated mainly on pastoral questions. More important, talks were held with government officials. The Hong Kong Catholic Church is determined to retain its links to the Vatican and neither the Hong Kong Church nor the Chinese authorities have proposed incorporating it into the CPA.

Although he did not rule

out re-integration of the Patriotic Church into the worldwide Catholic Church, Zong stressed that this was impossible unless the Vatican ruled out interference in China's domestic affairs and ended its diplomatic recognition of Taiwan, which China holds to be a rebel province. However, he did work to promote some of the reforms of the Second Vatican Council within the Patriotic Church.

Felix Cortey

Joseph Zong Huaide, priest: bom Shandong province, China 1917; ordanied priest 1943; Bishop of Thoucun 1958-97: Chairman Catholic Patriotic Association

BIRTHS

BAYLISS / SERUP: To Kevin and Rikke, on Saturday 28 June 1997, at King's College Hospital, London, a

DEATHS

DEATHS

BAKER: Rhonda, died in St Mary's Hospital, on 25 June 1997. Darling wite of Simon, daughter of Ron and Anne, and syster of Bob and Carol. She will be sadic missed by her family and her triends. Cremation at West Novacod. 11 July 1997, 3pm-4pm. No flowers, but donations please to Dr Carmel Coulter, for the St Mary's Oncology Departmental Fund, or to St Christopher's Hospice, co and enquiries to A. Veatman & Sons, of West Norwood, 0181-070 1127.

BETTERIDGE: Richard (Dick), passed

Porwood, 031-670 [127.]
BETTERIDGE: Richard (Dick), passed away at home on 29 June. Much loved by all his family and friends, he will be greatly missed. Funeral service to take place at St Lawrence Church, Abbots Langley, on Monday 7 July at 3,15 pm. Family flowers only please, donations to Oxfam. Donations and

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS ROYAL ENGAMENTENTS The Princes from It Drawbent of Part on Crime Concern, attends the Prindential Youth Action Awards Creem on at London Zoo. Regent w Park London NW. Los Chancellon, London Printary Care and Population Sciences, the Rival Free London Proceedings from Printary Care and Population Sciences, the Rival Free London Printary Care and Population Sciences, the Rival Free London NW. and, p Precident. Ruding for the Dearbied Awards on, agenda of Presentation Evening for the Sith Spensored Horse Rode, the Cutalitati, Window, Berkshin. The Buckets of Kent receives an Innovary degree at Hall University.

Changing of the Guard Changing of the Guard The Household Crosty: Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Lite fruard at Horse Guards, Ham. 14 Battalium Irsh fluords mounts the Queen's Chand. at Backlangham Palace. If Wam, land provided by the Irish Guards.

Births. Marriages & Deaths

any further enquiries to M.K. Gioder & Sons, 51 High Street, Abbots Langley. Telephone 01923 269994.

gley. Telephone 01923 269994.
GAYFORD: Michael Robert Dudley, on 28 June, aged 66, adored husband of Suzanna, loving father of Nicola and Christopher, much-loved father-in-law of Tim and Alice and darling grandpa of Georgie. Alice, Audrey. Serena. Gussie, Rupert. Kitty and Antona. Funeral Service at 5t Marys, Apuldram. on Tuesday 8 July at 2pm. No flowers. Donations, if wished, to Macmillan Nurses. c/o Edward White & Son, 5 South Pallant, Chichester. 01243 782136.

For GAZETTE, please telephone 0171-293 2011 or fax 0171-293 2010.

Forthcoming marriages

Dr A. M. Balfour and Miss V. J. E. Clarke

The engagement is announced be-tween Victoria, daughter of Mr and Mrs Graham Clarke, of Lymington, Hampshire, and Alistair, elder son of Dr and Mrs David Ballour, of

Anniversaries

Births: Thomas Cranmer, Archhishop of Canterbury, 1489; Alexan-der Frederick Douglas-Home, Lord Home of the Hirsel, politician, 1903, Deaths: Ernest Miller Hemingway. novelist. committed suicide 1961; Vladimir Vladimirovich Nabokov, vacaning vacaning visit Nabordov, novelist and lepidopterist, 1977. To-day is the Feart Day of St Mone-gundis. St Otto of Bamberg and Saints Processus and Martinian.

sevier, 61; Lord Mackay of Clashfern, former Lord Chancellor, 70; Mr Mr Basil Bean, former chief execu-Mr Basil Bean, former chief executive, National House-Building Council, 66; Lord Beloff, former Principal,
University College at Buckingham.
84; Dr Hans Bethe, physicist, 91; Mr
Kenneth Clarke MP, former government minister, 57; Lady Crawshay,
former chairman, Local Government Boundary Commission Wales Dennis Marks, general director. English National Opera, 49: Mr Fer-dinand Mount, Editor. Times Literun Supplement, 58; Lord Owen, former MP, 59; Sir Kieran Prendergast, former High Commissioner to Kenya, 55; Lord Sieff of Brimpton, ment Boundary Commission, Wales, 70: Sir Hugh Cubitt, chairman, Rea Brothers Group, 69; Mr Nicholas honorary president. Marks and Spencer, 84; Mrs Ann Taylor MP. Leader of the House of Commons, Elam, ambassador to Luxembourg, 58; Miss Jerry Hall, model, 41; Mr 50; Mrs Elspeth Thomas, Chair-

man, British Red Cross, 60; Mr John

of habeas corpus); House of Lords (Lord Goff of Chieveley, Lord Nicholls of Birkenhead,

Lord Steyn, Lord Hoffman, Lord Hutton) 19 June 1997

Proceedings before a magistrate to decide whether there was sufficient evidence to commit a person to prison pending a de-cision by the Home Secretary as to his extradition were

criminal proceedings.
The House of Lords dismissed the appellant's appeal against the refusal by the Divisional Court of his application

for a writ of habeas corpus.

The appellant was a Russian citizen who had been detained with a view to extradition to the United States. It was alleged that he had used a computer terminal in St Petersburg to gain unauthorised access to the computerised fund transfer service of Citibank NA in New Jersey, and had made fraudulent transfers of funds.

The procedure for extradi-

tion to the United States was

governed by the provisions of

the Extradition Act 1870 which

had been consolidated in Schedule I to the Extradition Act 1989. It was the duty of the metropolitan stipendiary magistrate, pursuant to paragraph 6(1) of Schedule I, to hear the appellant's case in the same manner as if he were charged with an indictable offence committed in this country.

The magistrate found that

the evidence justified the appellant's committal for trial, and accordingly ordered his committal to prison to await the de-cision of the Home Secretary rendered. The appellant's application to the Divisional Court for the issue of a writ of habeas corpus, claiming that the evidence adduced before the magistrate had not justified his committal, was dismissed. Alten Jones QC and James Lewis (Reynolds Dawson & Co) for the appellant; Paul Garlick QC and David Party (CPS) for the Governor of Brixton Prison and the United States Construction

LAW REPORT

Proceedings for extradition are criminal proceedings

2 July 1997 Lord Hoffman said that the ev-

idence before the magistrate had included an affidavit of a director of Citibank which dealt with the computerised fund transfer service. The witness had produced copies of com-puter printouts recording unau-thorised transfers of funds amounting in all to US\$10.7m. Another employee of Citibank had given oral evidence explaining how the computer

records were created. An accomplice had identified the appellant as the person who had initiated the unauthorised payment instructions from computer terminal in St

Petersburg.
It had been submitted for the appellant that the computer printouts were hearsay and inadmissible. They would be ad-missible in criminal proceedings under section 69 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984, but R v Governor of Belcided that extradition proceedings were not criminal

That argument seemed

wrong at every stage. The print-outs were not hearsay. They did not assert that the transfers had taken place: they recorded the transfers themselves. Extradition proceedings

were criminal proceedings, of a special kind, but criminal proceedings none the less. In exparte Francis McCowan LJ had said only that section 78 of the 1984 Act had no application to extradition proceedings.

Both case law and the terms

of the Extradition Act 1989 pointed to extradition proceedings being catogorised as criminal: see Armand v Home Secretary and Minister of De-fence of Royal Netherlands Govemment [1943] AC 147; and section 9(2) of and paragraph 6(1) of Schedule 1 to the 1989.

marsh Prison, ex parte Francis
[1995] I WLR 1121 had deternatively, that extradition

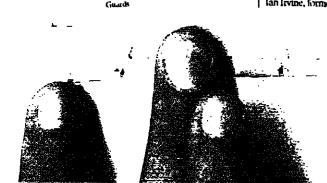
ceedings, and that the magis-trate should have exercised his discretion under section 78(1) of the 1984 Act to exclude the evidence of the accomplice and of the computer printouts.

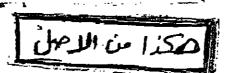
McCowan LJ had gone too far in ex parte Francis in saying that section 7S had no application to extradition proceedings. If it applied to committal proceedings it must also apply to extradition proceedings, al though it was likely that since the committal in the present case extradition proceedings had been excluded from the operation of section 78 by the Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act 1996.

The question was, however whether the admission of the evidence would have such an adverse effect on the fairness of the extradition proceedings that the court ought not to admit it. No reasonable magistrate would have excluded the evidence in the present case. The

Kate O'Hanlon, Barrister

appeal was dismissed





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M. THE INDIVIDUAL

On sexual equality, we should agree to differ

an you, in all honesty, imagine a society in which the relation-ship between men and women is equal in all significant respects? First, rephrase the question in the form that it is usually answered; can you imagine a world in which labour is evenly divided, men taking their fair share of domestic responsibilities. women having equivalent access to all kinds of formal employment?

Put like that, well, yes, of course you can. It would obviously be possible to organise society in that way if individual people, organisations, companies, families, and everything else remotely human could be persuaded to ditch aeons of social baggage. It is also perfectly possible (indeed, right) to take the view that we should reimagine our lives and reinvent our institutions in the direction of greater equality. How can anyone seriously doubt that we will be a happier society if people are more able to realise their lives fully, women enjoying the rewards of open access to a broad social life, men deepening their emotional lives by being with children, and so forth?

Thus, when a researcher reports to the British Psychological Society that working fathers do not behave like new men (rare nappy changes, not a lot of cooking, comes home late, doesn't look after the kids when they're ill) you

Fans unjustly

groaning, "Yeah, tell me something I don't know already." But, even though that particular feminist ambition of equality is far from being achieved, it is increasingly clear that it does not represent the whole question - either for men or women. Increasingly we find ourselves concerned with a more fundamental uncertainty. Are men and women profoundly, incluctably different? Are our circuit boards wired according to completely different plans? And if they are, is it possible that there are ways in which equality is a meaningless notion in the relationship between the sexes? Instinctively, an awful lot of us

think that our brains, our behaviours, our abilities and predispositions, are different in predetermined ways. But we don't actually know. Take the report only a week or two ago about the probability that there is a genetic predisposition in women to be more adept at communicating and co-operating, while there is a converse predisposition among men to drive for lone achievement. Reporting of this research finding attracted considerable comment, partly because (as ever) scientists were irritated that newspapers (including The Independent) should render their findings in terms that enabled lay folk to get a handle on the subject. So, we reported that boys will be boys and girls will be tives think about the material that



ONE CANADA SQUARE CANARY WHARF LONDON E145DL TELEPHONE 0171-293 2000 / 0171-345 2000 FAX 0171-293 3405 / 0171-345 2435

mosomes dictate. Actually, of course, the researchers were quite properly more cautious than that. But in some respects the most interesting thing is that no one really thought this was a particularly controversial or necessarily challenging thought. It con-curred so precisely with widespread expectation that few people became exercised about it.

Take another example. We reported in some detail this week research into women's newspaper reading habits, and what female newspaper execucan see all the women in the audience girls because that is what their chronewspapers carry. Naturally enough,

because men mostly dominate news output, and because women mostly say they want to read about things other than conventional news "events", there is an assumption that news is distorted by being male-oriented. Does that necessarily follow? It might, or it might not, depending on whether women actually want news at all - or something else. The idea of laying an even ground may be

beside the point. So here we are, making vast assumptions about our fundamental nature, without really having much evidence to point to the truth. In America, in

argument might be far more resolvable than we think. Technology now enables us to scan brains in ways that may identify a wide range of "softwired" differences, including intelligence, social and sexual differences. But there is a great reluctance to support such research in the open: it is largely hidden from view, for fear that it will upset our cherished presumptions.

What are we scared of? First, just suppose, purely for the sake of argument, that women do indeed have a genetic predisposition to be more cooperative in their social relations than men, and that men, conversely, are more likely to adopt aggressive postures. Why is the one propensity necessarily "better" than the other? Surely there are obvious situations in which the male propensity to go solo and compete is more useful than the female propensity to compromise, just as the reverse of this is true. Remember, second, that we are, like other species, highly adaptable. We may be able to rewire some parts of ourselves rather quickly, but hopelessly incapable of altering others.

So, if men and women are actually slightly different animals, who fulfil complementary roles, but also rub up against each other (excuse the metaphor) in different ways, isn't

particular, many research scientists that an important and useful way to understand ourselves? The more open-minded we can be about the way in which we interrelate, the better; and that may very well mean that men should no more become women than women should become men.

A sticky wicket for Mr Major

It does look suspiciously as if John Major is in denial. No. I wasn't Prime Minister, no, not at all, you see. First he wants to clear off sharpish, leaving his party to flounder about miserably in an all-too-hasty search for his successor - an argument from which Mr Major conspicuously absented himself, as the candidates attempted to distance themselves from him. Now that can't have been fun, and you have to have some sympathy; such devastating defeat takes time to assimilate. But then he chooses to stay at home to attend the Denis Compton memorial rather than go to Hong Kong. Given the choice between saluting a cricketing great, and bidding farewell to Britain's remaining vestiges of Empire, Mr Major knew where his heart lay; half-way down the 22-yard green stretch. Looks almost too fitting a conclusion.

• LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

blamed for BUDGET Hillsborough Sir: I was dismayed and incensed to **FORECAST** read Michael Roberts's letter (28 June) suggesting that the crowd were responsible for the crush at Hillsborough. This maligns a large number of innocent people. The design of the Leppings Lane end was likely to encourage such a crush. The area was divided into three pens, with access to the central pen via the tunnel and side pens by the ends. Since access to all three was from the area behind the turnstiles with no further control, it would be impossible to control numbers in each pen even before the gates bypassing the turnstiles were opened. Because the obvious At some other grounds this would be unlikely to happen. At

way in was through the tunnel and most people wish to stand behind the goal, most would attempt to enter the centre pen and few would enter the side pens to which entrance was lèss obvious.

Wembley when there was terracing each standing area was separately ticketed. At Anfield on the Kop there were no fences dividing the standing area into pens.
Any individual in a crowd has little control over his movement. That has led to the other crush disasters such as Ibrox and the

wartime accident in the London Tube. To suggest that those who formed the crowd were responsible is absurd. I am sure that given information they would have acted responsibly, but they could not possibly have known of problems at the front; indeed they could suppose that those controlling the ground had a duty to ensure that the pens were not overfilled. Regrettably, even in these days

of all-seater grounds, it could still happen, as all clubs do not issue tickets for specific seats. Fortunately we no longer have fences, so the results are unlikely to be as serious.

I trust Mr Roberts will accept that a crowd will always act in this way (rather like water) and ceases to be a group of individuals with individual will. RICHARD PEARSON

Sir: Michael Roberts states that those who "tried to cram themselves into the already overcrowded terraces" should take the blame for causing the Hillsborough tragedy irrespective of "other factors involved in the disaster".

It was precisely these "other factors" which led to supporters trying to enter the massively overcrowded middle pen of the Leppings Lane end of the ground. For instance, the decision to open an exit gate, and admit many fans, without even checking tickets, or South Yorkshire Police's ignorance of closed-circuit television evidence, which showed a potential crushing situation within the middle pen, while the two adjacent pens remained easily

If supporters had been directed by stewards or policemen towards less congested areas on their entry to the ground, 96 people might still be alive today. AKELLY Manchester

Sir: On a sunay spring morning in 1989, my husband set out to attend a football match. That night, someone completely different came home and our lives had been irrevocably changed.

Rafe ly Hanled !

The enormity of the tragic deaths of men, women and children the inquest.
Their also being made available at Hillsborough has rightly overshadowed the multitude of other personal tragedies which

arose out of that day. Thousands of people present were devastated by the trauma they experienced and witnessed. Many carry the guilt, not of having caused what happened, but of having survived. This, regardless of the fact that had it not been for the prompt and selfless action of fans both inside and outside the pens, many more would have died. Michael Roberts (letter, 28

June) need not concern himself about the police "taking representation" from these people. West Midlands Police did that last time. The fans were exonerated by the Taylor inquiry report. The uninformed interpretations of what happened that day, begun by West Yorkshire Police and The Sun newspaper and perpetuated by such as Mr Roberts, continue to cause pain to those already suffering. A new inquiry and reopened inquests on those who died will finally nail the myth that football fans were culpable. PAT AYERS Liverpool

Sir: Your correspondent ("Straw sets up review of football tragedy", 27 June) incorrectly reports on a

material fact. She writes: "The Crown Prosecution Service has studied video footage discovered in the archives of Yorkshire Television which South Yorkshire Police previously said was of too poor. quality to make available to the Taylor inquiry or to the inquest. That is wrong. The video footage

in question is from police tapes

which were made available to Lord Justice Taylor and HM coroner for

to Yorkshire Television subsequent to the inquiry by the South Yorkshire Police is also significant collateral for our assertion that there is no "cover-up" as popularly alleged in some quarters. The inquiry ordered by the Home Secretary will lay this particular confusion to rest. RICHARD WELLS Chief Constable South Yorkshire Police Sheffield

A chance missed in Hong Kong

Sir: We may well feel melancholy over the proceedings in Hong Kong. Much British bad faith has been involved.

As a member of the British Army, I arrived in Hong Kong in 1946, in time to see the Japanese war memorial blown up. Hong Kong was then something of a slag heap. The British routinely treated the Chinese as an inferior race, but that inferior race set about rebuilding their splendid island and their trade. It became the most amazing futuristic city on the

The British government would not give the Hong Kongers British passports. They might have wished to come and live in our chilly island. But what a chance was missed. We should have leased

those energetic people the Isle of Wight for 99 years. In just 10 years' time, we would have had a mighty new Hong Kong off the south coast of England. BRIAN ALDISS

Oxford Sir: I was glad to read the letter from Drummond Hunter (30 June). The fact that Hong Kong has been handed over to China by Britain and not by some other power is due to the action of one relatively unknown man at the end of the war in the Far East.

The Rev J Ernest Sandbach, a minister of the Methodist Church, went as a missionary to Hong Kong in 1938 and, in addition to his church work, he was responsible for the Sailors' and Soldiers' Home and was officiating minister for

Services personnel. Following the invasion by the Japanese in 1941 he organised hospital supplies and then, with other civilians, was interned in the camp on the Stanley peninsular in 1942. He continued his missionary work as far as possible in the camp and was appointed chairman of the camp committee and, as such, represented the internees in negotiations with the Japanese authorities, often at great personal

risk to himself. Hearing of the imminent surrender to the Allied Forces in 1945, he marched out of the camp with the Colonial Secretary and a Chinese coast skipper and went to the Japanese officer in charge and told him he was taking over Hong Kong as a British colony. Very

Post levers to Levers to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number. Fax: 0171-293 2056;

e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be

edited for length and clarity. We regret we are unable to acknowledge unpublished letters.

soon after he was told by the Allied low back pain is recognised as HQ to take over Hong Kong in the name of the four Allies. He replied, informing them that he had already taken over Hong Kong in the name of Great Britain and "so it has remained" he told me with a smile years later. He stayed

in Hong Kong until 1960 and for his work there he was awarded the OBE on his return to England. I had known his name for years before I met him in 1974 when I came to Selsey and found he had retired here. We became very good friends and he gave me willing help in my work until I retired in 1987. Later I had the privilege of

giving thanks to God for his life and work at his funeral in May 1991. The Rev F R DOWSON

Selsey, Chichester

The best ways to treat pain

Sir: Suzanne Moore ("Whose death is it anyway?". 27 June) has done little to help those of us who are struggling to educate the medical profession in the management of pain, never mind the general public.

I can appreciate the agonies undergone by your correspondent having acute low back pain and the lack of skills by the accident and emergency team in the management of her problem. However, she fails to understand the distinction between acute, chronic and malignant pain. Acute

I accept that pain is a very real problem and is probably the commonest cause for a patent to consult a doctor. However, the real problem is recognising the type of pain and prescribing the correct treatment - this often does not include opiate analgesics. Dr KEITH A MULLIGAN Clinical Director, Pain Management

Directorate South Tees Acute NHS Trust

being a national priority in terms

of management, because of the

not recommended. The recent

Clinical Standards and Advisory

Group recommends that people

should remain mobile and return

report of a multi-disciplinary

to work quickly, so that their

It would appear that your

correspondent feels that opiate

analgesia should be administered

at the drop of a hat even if it is not

managing some types of pain (including cancer pain). There is a

distinct place for the use of opiate analgesics, however it should be

recognised that there are different

condition does not become

thought to be effective in

types of pain and some pain

conventional analgesics than to

Some pain will never disappear.

despite any drugs, operations or nerve blocks. This pain is real and

still requires help, but the patient

psychological rather than medical

must learn to manage their pain

rather than seeking the magic

cure. This may require

intervention .

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rising number of cases reported

and unfortunately for Ms Moore hospital admission for analgesia is

Late nights at the library

Sir: The decline in the use of public libraries is not just due to them purchasing too few books ("Use of libraries declines as cuts limit new books", 30 June). Library hours in our own London borough. Camden, have been severely cut over the years. Even worse, opening times are out of touch with current working hours and the spread of commuting: my own branch, the borough's flagship,

normally closes at six, with one
"late night" opening – to 7pm.
Having "grown up" in my local
library, I particularly regret that my schoolboy son cannot go there after tea, as I used to, given how long it now takes even children to get home. On Saturdays, meanwhile, the desperate scramble of teenagers with project work besieging an under-staffed inquiry desk can put off library users of other ages.

Better funding alone might not help here. Many councils are keener on buying computer gadgetry for their libraries than on improving access for working residents. This is not to say they are unaware of the problem: when I phoned Camdon's deputy director a few weeks ago, she confirmed that a survey of library users had shown great demand for longer opening hours. Reassured, I asked how the council would respond to these findings.

The answer was that Camden would conduct another survey on the subject at some point in the future. Internet facilities, on the other hand, are to be introduced very soon ... E PALLIS London NII6

Free for a day

Sir: Eleanor Boyle (Letters, 30 June) will be pleased to know that we at Dulwich Picture Gallery operate exactly the Continental free day system, which she advocates. Normally the Gallery costs £3 or £1.50 concession, with free admission for children and the unemployed; on Friday it is free for all. England's oldest public art gallery receives no revenue funding

from the state. We cannot live without admission charges: on the other hand we cannot countenance excluding any part of the public for whom our founders bequeathed their magnificent collection back in 1811. DESMOND SHAWE TAYLOR Director, Dulwich Picture Gallery London SE21

Uncouth in Paris

Sir: John Lichfield is astonished that he has not been invited into a French home yet (Paris Days, 28 June). How many French people has he invited into his home? This is not meant to be a flip remark: in France, that's the way round it is, It is the newcomer who has to make the first move.

It's no good standing around waiting to be recognised; people will just think you're uncouth. KEITH EDGERLEY Aigues-Mortes, France

Ecstatic roulette

Sir: George Howarth (letter, 28 June) asserts that "Drugs destroy lives ... taking an Ecstasy tablet is like playing Russian roulette". ls Russian roulette actually illegal! VAL URTONE Northill, Bedfordshire

Saying sorry is in fashion: from slavery in the US to famine in Ireland, Western leaders are expressing regret. But how can we tell when they mean it, asks

laude Lanzmann's film Shoah, which described the Holocaust in the words of its perpetrators as well as its survivors, taught one unforgettable lesson: how weak is the power of conscience in human faces. The camera closed in again and again for the narrative close-ups, and again and again the pictures told their story independently of the words. Survivors of the camps were, for the most part, furtive, marked: guilty. By contrast, their persecutors were solid men, with cheeks and brows as smooth as cold pork

Andrew

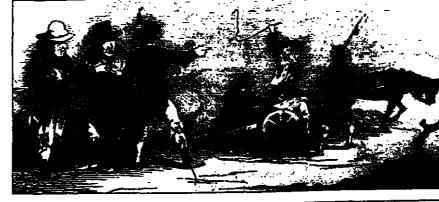
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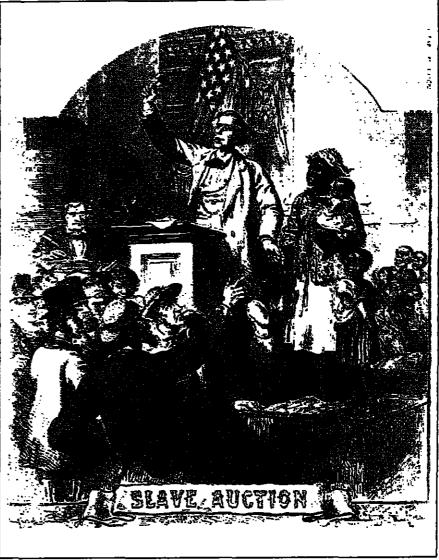
Those who had suffered seemed to feel they owed the world an apology for surviving: but the butchers, the men who stoked the ovens or read by the light of lampshades made with human skin, had an unshakable self-confidence. No doubt they concealed their pasts when these were unfashionable; quite probably you would have found no more fervent anti-Nazis in 1946. But you could not imagine those men uttering any apology that meant more than "I am sincerely sorry that we lost, and I regret from the bottom of my heart that I was

However, there is another form of apology - a sincere gesture made from a position of power. Such actions are extremely rare, but they haunt



Guilty memories (clockwise from top left): the German invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1938; the Irish potato famine of 1846-48; the slave trade, which ended in America 132 years ago; the





version of an apology; an expression of regret without an acknowledgement of responsibility. He was very sorry the potato famine happened. This is not really a controversial position. Even at the time, few Englishmen rejoiced in the famine. They just believed, mistakenly, that they could do as little about it as Blair can now,

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he real interest of Blair's apology for the potato famine is the Unionist reaction; that once the British or Protestant side starts to apologise for the death of Catholics, it is difficult to draw the line. Why not apologise for Cromwell? Or for Henry II, who first sent knights into the Pale? Worse yet, the regret over the potato famine seems to suggest that the Govern-ment might apologise for Bloody Sunday, when 13 rioters were shot in Londonderry in 1972. Such a gesture would be upsetting precisely because no one would believe it was a sincere apology from a position of strength. It would be taken as insincere, and revealing a not expect the IRA to recognise sincerity in anyone else's apology when they themselves have produced the most transparently unregretful expressions of regret in history. Hatred and anger turn out to be nearly as hard to decommission as guns - and just as easy to store until they are needed again. It may be impossible to bring a war to an end without realising that both sides have much to apologise for, but acting on that realisation is impossible while the war persists. It's a logiam.

Nowhere is the logiam worse than in the United States, where there are serious demands for an apology for slav-ery. What makes this particularly difficult is that the US is such a Christian country, where the tradition of public repent-ance is well established; and the civil rights movement grew out of the church. So there are a lot of potential recipients of the apology who feel it could be a moment of grace. Here, for example, is Donna Britt, writing in The Washington Post. "An apology is less a choice than a decision. Deciding to apologise - even for something as monumental and as devoid of living perpetrators as slavery. - can be powerful, even miraculous. Like true forgiveness, a heartfelt apology transcends politics and practicality. It is

spiritual." But where some see an occasion of grace, others see an occasion of money; for if an be far behind? Ten years ago, a black politician proposed a commission of reparation for slavery - an institution that ended 132 years ago - which would decide what was owed to blacks for the crimes committed against their ancestors, and passed on down. It is difficult to imagine anything that would do more to perpetuate the fears and hatreds that an apology can sometimes blow away. But if it's to do that, we have to be very clear that the only apologies worth having are those that are

pologising for history

insincere regret to absolutely everyone in the universe is only the most recent demonstration that 1997 is going to be the year of the apology. After the Second World War, the rule was clear: only the losers had to apologise, but they had to apologise for everything. Now, however, there seems to be no government safe from the demand.

This year alone, the Czech government has apologised to Germany for throwing out the Second World War: and the German government has once the various discussions this year more apologised to the Czechs who were sent to missions or

used in medical experiments. Tony Blair has almost apoloogised for slavery, racism, the Crusades, Catholics burning Protestants, Protestants disemof the rest of life's rich tapestry.

Only the Australian Prime Minister, John Howard, has bucked this trend: he refused demands to apologise for the removal from their families, earlier this century, of up to 100,000 Aborigine children

ment up to claims for compen-sation, and then where would it gised for the potato famine. The be? 'Australians of this generecumenical body Churches ation should not be required to Together in England has apol- accept guilt and blame for past actions and policies over which they had no control," he said. This sounds perfectly reasonbowelling Catholics, and most able, until you reverse the image. Does he get up on Anzac day and claim that Australians of the present genera-tion should not claim credit for the bravery and self-sacrifice of their ancestors, over which they also had no control? Of course he does not. We all know that there is an organic connection between our forbears' virtues

> fail to transmit. This suggests a principle for dealing with the question of how far back an apology should travel, for there are quite clearly crimes of our ancestors for which we are not responsible and for which it would be pointless to apologise in any sense. Two examples from the remote fastnesses of north Essex illustrate this. In the museum in Saffron Walden are preserved a couple of inches of chamois-leather-coloured human skin, which were re-

and our own. It is only their

vices which they mysteriously

not feel any urge to apologise for this to the Danes at the language school up the road. I don't even want them to apol- had a ship wrecked under him, ogise for King Canute. But to the great distress of his none of the parties involved fellow-passengers. But, as a feel they are descended in any important sense from the warriors a thousand years ago; in fact we all probably descend from both sides and have inherited expertise in war crimes from both sides of the family.

here is another war memorial in the town, this time to the American airmen based in these parts who died bombing Germany in the Second World War. We are meant to be inspired by their bravery, and in some sense to have inherited it; and I like to believe that we may have done. But by the same token we are implicated in their killing of civilians, women and children. If we are to raise statues to the men of Bomber Command, perhaps we should also apologise to their innocent victims.

It is not just time which can make apologies ludicrous. There is no point in apologis-ing if you have no power. The thing about liberal guilt is that the liberals who feel it are

about who should or should not apologise for what.

Mike Tyson's expression of apologised to blacks who were plains, would open the government of the church door as a pologised to blacks who were plains, would open the government of the church door as a pologised to blacks who were plains, would open the government of the church door as a pologised to blacks who were plains, would open the government of the church door as a pologised to blacks who were plains, would open the government of the church door as a pologise to other raiders. I do tian who is constantly proposing to apologise for everything that has happened since St Paul general rule, Christians don't count when they apologise, because they have no power.

Mind you, Christians ought

to have some rights over the

apology, because they seem to have invented it. At least, they seem to have invented the sort the upper hand. of apology that is more than a straight tribute from the weaker to the stronger. The first public apologies seem to have been performed by penitent Christians in North Africa in the second century. As well as the confession of sins, this involved prolonged prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, until the bishop decided you had suffered enough. After that you were readmitted to the congregation, on condition of life-long celibacy. Christians soon began postponing any apology for their sins until their deathbeds, when life-long celibacy did not seem such a deprivation; and

forms of penance. You can see the seed of the modern kind of apology in the

the church bad to invent gentler

themselves having to do penance for such bursts of exuberance as having archbishops murdered. Standing in the snow for three days, barefoot, while the Pope decided whether to see you, or shuffling round a stony cloister till your knees bled, were acknowledgements of both weakness and wrongdoing. No king would do such things unless he felt he had no alternative. But a king who did them was admitting that he had sinned, as well as that the Church had, for the moment,

The nearest modern equivalent to that sort of penance is the "I'm sorry the newspapers caught me", most recently displayed by Princess Diana after she took her sons to the cinema to watch (illegally) a film glorifying the exploits of the IRA. which has devoted so much time and effort to trying to mur-der her in-laws. But such transparently hypocritical displays can be made only to excuse individual wrong-doing. Whole nations cannot apologise on

Perhaps Mr Blair feels that the real tragedy of the potato famine is that the Irish keep going on about it, but he could not frame his apology in those terms. In fact, he used the third

Watch the budget live and increase your interest rate. Get the complete picture Uninterrupted, live coverage of the first Labour Budget and subsequent debates. Starts today at 3.30pm.

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And news just in from Hong Kong easy, reporting is hard. It is

very time you switched on your radio or TV, it was there. Morning, noon and night. The latest state of play. The latest state of rain. The experts pulled in to forecast the next round. The commentators gathered round to give their verdict. The ex-champions consulted for their view of today's No. not Wimbledon.

It's Hong Kong I'm talking

Every time I switched on my radio on the long drive north to Welshpool the other day, all I got was the droning of people who had been flown out to Hong Kong to tell us that in a few hours it would be handed over to the Chinese and that a few hours after that they would all be

flying back again.
I think we all knew that. You would have had to be blind, deaf, dumb or sitting in the New Mexico desert celebrating the non-existence of UFOs not to be aware of the fact that we were giving Hong Kong back to the Chinese, and even then you would have had fairly good prior warning of the fact. We have in fact known for

more than 100 years that

Hong Kong was going to be given back to the Chinese in the middle of 1997. This was the best signposted, most heralded event of the 20th century, the one containing the least surprise value and the least news value.

And yet every time you

switched on your radio and TV, as I seem to have said before, there it was. The grand closing-down, the great bandover, the British bands and the Chinese fireworks. The last bit of the British Empire (apart from Bermuda, Anguilla, Gibraltar and all the other bits we still have) to be given back to the rightful owners. A moment to make you stop and think: "I wonder what's

on the other side?" So why had all the journalists flocked out to Hong Kong to tell us what we knew already? Why did Fergal Keane

wander down to the Hong Kong graveyard where so many British soldiers were buried and go into Fergal-Keane-elegiac mode? Why did John Simpson put on his lightweight tropical gear and fly out to go into his well-what-happens-next? mode?

Miles Kington

Why were we given endless speculation on whether Geoffrey Howe would or would not attend the Chinese knees-up? Why was there endless coverage of Ted Heath getting off the plane in Hong Kong, when we all know that any event to which Ted Heath turns up is likely to turn out to be a non-

event?
Was it because nothing else was happening in the

Was it in order to give a lot of journalists a jolly nice free trip to one of the best shopping areas in the world, not to mention John Birt.

freebie? A reader writes: Come off it, Mr Kington, you're just jeulous that you weren't invited! You're green with envy at the

sight of all these reporters getting wined and dined and being given a last opportunity to buy cheap shirts and cameras! So now you're turning nasty and pretending it's all a lot of hokum! Mr Kington writes: No. sir

- you're wrong. All in all, I'd rather be back in Britain, and I am not sorry to be up here in Welshpool, which in its own way is a bit like Hong Kong, being on the borders of two great nations, Wales and England, and which has one great advantage over Hong Kong, being completely free of the international press circus. I suppose I could have been out and about early today asking the inhabitants of Welshpool if they wanted to be given back to the Welsh, or indeed to the English, but exposure to the Hong Kong circus has cured me of that

sort of journalism. By "that

sort", I mean the kind of

over Hong Kong than to find out what is actually happening. The Tory party leadership struggle got more coverage before it happened than after, as do almost all events, from a British Lions match ("We go over now to the British Lions camp to find out how morale is before the big match") to the Northern Ireland peace process, which indeed is unique in being all speculation and no actuality. Or was the real reason that the Hong Kong handover was reported so widely simply that the media were handed all the pictures on a plate, and had only to fill in a few footnotes? Meanwhile, here in Welshpool there is a big story

far easier to say what may happen after China takes

which has gone unreported, and that is that one of the largest stores in town is called Major's, and that the week after the election it put up a notice saying "Closing Down Sale". I would have recommended putting a reporter on to it, except that

they're all in Hong Kong. Miles Kington, Welshpool, journalism today that is more inclined to speculation than to reporting. Speculation is

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Future generations will be the best judge of the Budget

his evening we will all be making those little per-sonal calculations about the Budget - how much more we will be paying for petrol or booze, whether we gain or lose from the income tax changes. Tomorrow the papers will be full of macro-economic calculations what are the implications for interest rates and economic growth, for government borrowing, or for future public spending. But before all that hits us, let's just think about some other tests that might be applied, tests of things vastly more important than the price of a bottle of whisky or the future profile of the PSBR.

Try these three: the implica tions of the Budget for Britain's role in the world economy; for the environment; and for fairness between different genera-tions. For government financial policies should not be framed just to try to satisfy existing voters. There is a wider constituency which does not vote in British elections, but which has a profound interest in what our government does: the countries with whom we trade and have investment links, the creatures and plants on our island and beyond; and our children, our children's children and the generations of the unborn.

The importance of the first of these, in particular the people in countries that have investments here and in which we ourselves have investments, is recognised by Gordon Brown. He would argue that in a global economy the job of government is to think globally, rather than nationally, when framing a budget. We live in a world of gigan-

tic capital flows, in which money and the knowhow behind that money will flow anywhere in the globe. His view is that what these international investors want most of all is stability, so the first job of government is to provide that. Getting relations right with the international

investment community is particularly important for the UK. Most people know that we have been very successful at attracting foreign investment: Nissan, Toyota and so on. It is much less widely appreciated that the stock of investments we own abroad is even larger than the foreign-owned stock here. As a result we have a large net income from investments - the second largest in fact, after Japan, in the world. We seem to have a comparative advantage in the craft of managing international investments. So the test for the Chancellor today is not

just the narrow one of whether his measures are approved by the world's financial markets or the multinational corporations. It is the broader test of whether they are in tune with a world in which capital and people can move much more freely than ever before in human history. The simple question is whether we continue to attract foreign capital, and any fall-off in the inflow would certainly be cause for concern. The more subtle one is whether the Budget recognises that globalisation takes many forms, including attracting foreign nationals to base themselves in Britain. One particular concern is whether our tax laws, currently favourable towards resident non-nationals, may be skewed too far against them.

Now the implications of the Budget towards the environment. Tax and spending changes have, over a generation or so, an enormous impact on the environment. The transformation of the British countryside, from the wheat fields of East Anglia to the Sitka spruce plantations of Scotland, have been driven by tax breaks.



Hamish McRae

There is a wider constituency which does not vote: our trading partners, our flora and fauna, and our

children's

children

This leads to the third test: will public finance take into account the interests not just of present voters, but of future ones? Left to themselves, human beings can be astonishingly far-sighted. Our public parks were planned and paid for by people who would never live to see them in their full glory. One of

records on this most vital issue.

can and should do, and this

means some tough choices. Vot-

ers and pressure groups con-cern themselves with a few

high-profile issues and can be

satisfied relatively easily. But

there are fewer votes in mea-

sures that will hurt people now but limit climatic change in 30

years' time. Taxing company

cars and parking places or switching some money into, say, better bicycle ways or public transport has much less impact

than pricing all energy properly. The Chancellor sets off on the

wrong foot here with the cut in

VAT on home fuel. The key test

is whether the Budget's impact

on the environment is tokenism,

or whether it is prepared to

upset people now in order to

improve environmental con-

ditions far into the future.

But there is much more we

the most powerful human drives seems to be the desire of parents not just to bring up and support children through their education, but also to leave something to them when they die.
Public finance, alas, does not work like that

for governments all over the world have built up enormous debts that will have to be redeemed in higher taxation by children and the unborn. In Commental Europe the problem is particularly grave because of the unfunded pension liabilities, which will have to be paid by a smaller group of workers; but even in the UK we should be paying back national debt now, while we can afford to do so, as well as encouraging people to save more.

So there is a third test: are we running our

finances in a way that is fair to future citizens? There is a string of specific questions here. For example, we need to test government financial policy on education: are we investing enough in our children, and demanding high enough standards from them? Does tax policy help cement the family unit? Does it help people save? Are the big taxation and spending poli-cies resulting in unsustainable national debts?

None of this is easy; none of this is immediate. It is difficult to become overly worried about the interests of a Japanese multinational, a migrant bird, or a child who will not be born for another five years. And so I am afraid that you will not see these big questions tackled in much depth tomorrow in that fog of war which will follow what is certainly a very important political event. But if the financial policies of this government are to matter at all a generation from now, they will matter because of their sensitivity to big issues such as global-isation, the environment and intergenerational fairness - and not because of what they do to the price of a bottle of booze.

The televised debate that never was

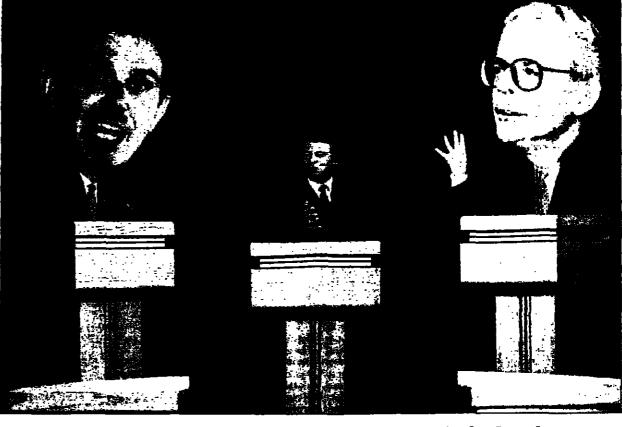
has long been the holy grail of British in the context of a modern campaign covered by hour after hour of election programming on TV and radio, this would have been the big one the programme all the broadcasters were convinced would be special enough to attract the parts of the electorate other political programmes couldn't reach and to deliver a mass audience. It could have been the television event of the year and possibly the defining point

of the campaign.
We considered that mounting such a debate lay at the heart of the BBC's public service remit and that licence-payers would legitimately expect such a crucial national event to be broadcast by us on both television and radio. It was a strong card. But not strong enough. Some of the comment following the collapse of the talks assumed that the decision was in the broadcasters' hands. It wasn't. In this game the politicians held all the aces. This was the one programme which by definition could not get on screen unless all the par-ties agreed not only to take part, but to take part on the

same terms.
The BBC first wrote to John Major, Tony Blair and Paddy Ashdown just before Christ-mas, and we started talking informally to their representatives in January. From the start the then government wanted a prime ministerial debate - a head-to-head with Tony Blair. For us this was never a starter. We had to be perceived by the audience to be fair. And that meant including the third UK party in a meaningful way and making appropriate arrange-ments for the SNP and Plaid Cymru. We had strong legal advice that the Liberal Democrats would challenge such a proposal in court and win. But for the BBC, being fair meant more than just avoiding legal

challenge in the courts. Initial contacts were not promising. The Conservative Party told us that they would not be talking to the broadcasters until a decision had been made in principle by the then prime minister. John Major was not interested in a format that included Paddy Ashdown. Labour was happy to engage in discussions, but wasn't optimistic about it taking off. If it happened at all, Labour wanted a negotiated framework well in advance. The Liberal Democrats made it clear that they had every intention of carrying out their threat of a legal challenge to any debate which excluded

In March, voices in the Conservative camp in favour of the debate became more audible, and the weekend before the election was declared we set to work on the first of many formats to put to the parties. Sunday 16 March marked the



Despite all the wrangling, ultimately the parties lacked enthusiasm. It is in the public interest for the politicians and broadcasters to get it right next time, argue Tony Hall and Anne Sloman

beginning of an intense, exhilarating but ultimately frustrating two weeks of negotiation. We learnt all the routes to avoid the worst traffic jams between Conservative Central Office, where Michael Dobbs was handling the talks for John Major, King's Bench Walk, where Lord Irvine, who negotiated for Labour, had his chambers, and the Westminster base of Lord Holme, the Liberal Democrats' campaign manager. By the evening of Wednesday 26 April we had come very close to an agreement, but on the following day

it collapsed. What went wrong? All along the parties had had a very different view about what a debate or debates should consist of. They did make concessions to each other. The Conservatives. not wanting to submit Mr Major to an undignified heargarden, had initially been very wary of any audience partici-pation at all. Labour, judging that Tony Blair would perform at his best with an audience, wanted most of the debate to involve, not just be in front of, an audience. The parties disagreed about the length and about whether there should be one debate or two. Our negotiations narrowed the gap considerably on all these points. But the central stumbling block - the role of Paddy Ashdown -

remained, and as Labour would

not be party to anything which

might be subject to a legal

challenge, the Liberal Democrats held the key.

Lord Holme was determined to ensure that Paddy Ashdown was not "confined to a corner" of the programme. Michael Dobbs was equally determined that John Major should have the maximum opportunity to take on Tony Blair head to head, with as little three-party interaction as possible. As minutes here and there in the format were traded, wanted it sorted out one way or the other before the Easter break, and set a deadline of 5pm on Thursday 27th. Michael Dobbs decided that meant, in effect, that the negotiations were over and having been at the centre of the action for the previous two weeks, we stood by helplessly watching the Press Association reports come up on the screen as the parties started

to brief the press with their own versions as to why. Could the debate talks have had a successful outcome? If the parties had met round an table months, even years in advance, as they do in the US, would an agreed format have emerged? If the broadcasters had acted together, instead of in competition with each other, would that have made a differhave been asked many times since the election and, indeed, have asked ourselves. But they presuppose that the politicians really wanted a dehate, and

piece of the election campaign. But there is little evidence that

Élections are the point in the political cycle when politicians are least likely to be highminded about engaging in debate for debate's sake, or making (sensible) negotiated concessions to their opponents. Politicians fight elections to win. If they're in government, est. In 1997 the parties didn't why offer opportunities to the challenger? After all, many incumbent MPs see no advantage in taking part in broadcast constituency debates to which, under the provisions of the Representation of the People Act, all candidates must be invited to participate. In the UK, party managers

see only a high-risk strategy when they think of public, televised debates between leaders. To them, such an event, or events, over which they have limited control and which will dominate press and broadcast coverage for days before and after, is more threat than

But elsewhere, in the US for example, leadership debates are widely seen as playing a significant part in helping voters to make their choices. Politicians, broadcasters and audiences have embraced them in a variety of formats and locations.

Similarly, we believed – and still do - that such debates are very much in the public interagree. None of them wanted it enough to make it happen. And so it didn't. But we urge them to reconsider now, while there is time for calm reflection and negotiation and when the balance of party advantage may be less obvious. If we can find a way through.

we believe the public will be better informed and our political system strengthened. We invite the parties to find a way forward with us - we owe it to our audience - but there must be a genuine conviction on all sides.

Tony Hall is chief executive. BBC News. Anne Sloman is chief political adviser to the BBC.

Under the Dome: a serious proposal

the viscous, colourless smear of post-industrial East London, a Dome shall arise. We are not talking Xanadu here: the grey and turbid roared at full power. Yet in Thames runs by it, not the some ways the millennium is sacred Alph. But, though Tony Blair is no Kubla Khan, there is vision here, and holdness.

The state of the s The Dome is surrounded by circles of doubters, from Labour MPs to companies. The appointment of Peter Mandelson, who has the power, energy under the factor of the first perfect of the factor of the and motive to make it a success. has been greeted with behind-land snickering from other ministers. But if Blair had funked this, the whole millenmany of the many distribution of the second nium project would have ground to a halt; and a rare opportunity to do something optimistic and unexpected And the second s would have been squandered.

Yet the biggest question remains unanswered. We know about the site of this Dome, the architecture, the planning, the politics. We know something, at least, about the funding. The impresario, Sir Cameron Macutosh, has been chosen. The directors are in place. The middle class are quite prepared. The only thing is ... what to go inside it? What is this Great Something to be about? Previous trand events have

of the latest 1. 数元 (4. 元) (many districts of the second o had clear enough themes. The Festival of Britain, led by Herbert Morrison, was a in our short attention-span, Mr Mandelson's grandfather

devastation and grimness of war. The Great Exhibition of 1851 was a triumphal celebration of mankind's ingenuity as the Industrial Revolution more resonant than either.

One can imagine, all too easily, how we could blow it. A "heritage" show would blow it. The easy, official-mind view of what the Dome should hold will instantly conjure up a dryiced historical British pageant, with lasers and fake beards, booming music and plastic galleons, Good Queens and stovepipe-hatted Victorians, telling the story of these islands from the year 1000 onwards -Arthur Bryant meets Andrew Lloyd Webber.

Why would that be such a terrible thing? The first answer is that this should be a global show, pulling people in from overseas. London is the global city, a mosaic of different peoples, the world's biggest crossing point for airlines, telephony and the world's largest centre for cross-border shares. The whole point of Greenwich is that it is a world time-centre. The second answer, obviously, is that this must be more forward-looking than back-

ward-looking.
But the third and most important answer is: seriousness. The first emphasis, even

o, on a eval slab of pol-luted mud, surrounded by devastation and grimness of devastation and grimness of ment. Far from turning people patronising "fun" or entertain-ment-pap. People can go to lots of places for that.

If this is to be different it has to draw us to Greenwich because the Dome poses and tries to answer big questions about humanity - our future, wars, our con-

sumption, our relationship with the rest of the biomass. It needs to have a hard core of serious intent, however it is presented. It needs to be a stock-taking

and thoughtprovoking place where we can look at ourselves in a mir-

Andrew Marr

ror and then argue about how we will survive fairly and sustainably through the next century. As a species, we have exploded in numbers, power, technology and danger in a tiny space of time. The Dome can be and must be a place which spurs debate on the future of housing, of national-ity, democracy and the Internet; the exploitation of space; the politics of food; the economics of biotechnology; the

time is right. We are citizens, not simply consumers. Climate change - "whether" for some people, "how much, and when" for most of us - is the biggest news story of our time. From our current behaviour, our the English wondering what it means for the river-diverting

farmers Essex and Kent (and their chalk streams with the fat trout, now gurgling down thirsty boreholes) to the flooded Northern Italians and the desertified Africans.

We worry about the hill-

side-carving strip mines and water-meadowdestroying bypasses. Lots of us worry about the disappearing skylarks and song thrushes, the harbour porpoises and stone curlews, the assorted threatened newts, bats and bitterns. All of us breathe. Most of us

drive. And as the brown haze curdles over the great cities, and almost every family shops by car, sitting in slowly moving metal convoys, we all know we cannot go on like this. We all And yes, inescapably, that means much of the exhibition of growing car use like the last means much of the exhibition of growing car use like the last the Festival a century later.

two generations will seize up the last freely moving roads and make the cities unbearable.

We know that our farming has been too intensive, both for buman bealth and the balance of the countryside. We know that an ocean economy which offers supermarket shoppers flash-frozen exotic fish, airfreighted by jumbo from the Indian Ocean, but which has little left to offer from the destroyed breeding-grounds around our coastline, is a shortterm fishing economy.

We know all this. So let us. as one millennium ends and another begins, talk about it. There are plenty of energetic technological responses, as well as political ones, to be exhibited. An environmental campaigner. Peter Stone, has suggested using a groundbreaking if provocative report to the Club of Rome, Factor Four: Doubling Wealth, Halving Resource Use, by Amory Lovins,

as a text for Greenwich.

The book discusses the new forms of energy efficiency, building, transport and trading that are likely to be necessary in the century ahead. Such seriousness may send a shiver down the spines of some politicians and business executives. But great events need great purposes. And this may be the modern equivalent to the industrial enthusiasm of 1851 attract big outside agencies and companies, from the more far-sighted oil companies to the World Bank. It would make Greenwich a real global centre impossible to ignore, difficult to deride. In a letter to Mr Mandelson, Mr Stone argues: "Is it not more relevant to the next millennium than just a good old national kneesup ... Let Britain, which has done so much to create the

modern world, take the golden

opportunity of the first high

noon of the new millennium to

invite the world to take

I couldn't agree more. There is real vision, a generousminded intellectual response to the decision to go ahead with the Dome as a structure. Yes. there should be fun and entertainment too. Yes, it needs to be slick and professional. But this thing will work if it catches the imagination of millions. The only way to do that is to

treat them seriously.

If it does that - and the early signals in Whitehall are that Mr Mandelson and his team see the challenge very clearly - then the Dome will be a great success. But if it is designed purely as a pleasure dome, or a trade fair, it will be a turkey, and all the dry ice, amplification systems and laser shows in the world won't save it. Fun is fun: but life is more

The readers



The writers

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Huntington, Ernst Gombrich, Anne Applebaum

The magazine

business & city

Amersham merger creates world leader

Amersham International is merging with Nycomed of Norway to create the world's imaging agents, which have a diverse range of medical uses from X-rays to scanners. The deal comes just three weeks after Amersham, the first company to be privatised by Margaret Thatcher in 1982, announced the merger of its life sciences division with that of Swiss drugs group. Pharmacia

The new company, Nycomed Amersham, which at yesterday's share prices is valued at over £2bn, will have combined sales of £1.5bn and operating profits of £244m, of which £90m is accounted for by Amersham.
The all-paper deal takes the form of an offer for Nycomed by higher rated Amersham which will leave Amersham shareholders with 47 per cent of the combined group.
Though shares in both Amer-

sham and Nycomed gained strongly in early trading, concerns that annual cost savings will be eroded by fierce competition in Nycomed's core US to December "substantially X-ray imaging market and un-below" last year's £9.4m, writes certainty over renewal of two key contracts tempered Amersham's initial 255p hike. Amersham's shares closed 87.5p higher at £16.82p while Ny-comed's shares climbed 23 per cent to 132.5 kronas.

chief executive who becomes chief executive of the new group, said Nycomed added potentially exciting areas of MRI and Ultrasound imaging to its own world-leading position in the radioactive sector.

"We now have the clout to offer radiological departments an entire range of products," he added. Trond Jacobsen, a director of Nycomed, estimated leading supplier of diagnostic that the market for Ultrasound imaging agents could be worth £1bn by 2001. "There is a wonderful base of equipment which can use our agents. Most doc-tors already have ultrasound

The new group will have 30 per cent of the £3bn world imaging market, leading Bracco (half-owned by Germany's Merck) with 21 per cent, the US's Mallinckrodt with 15 per cent and Germany's Schering

around 100 from the UK, from a combined workforce of 11,600 offered scope to save at least £40m a year to 2000, with half realised by December next year. Amersham, which is changing its year end from March to December, will make a £50m ex-ceptional provision in its next nine month figures and is also paying a special dividend to Nycomed shareholders.

Mr Castell said that

Nycomed's investments in

Shanghai and Latin America po-

sitioned the enlarged company

in new and fast growing markets.

Merging administration, sales

and marketing and the loss of around 300 jobs, including

Huntingdon shares dive on fewer orders

animals, dived by 15 per cent to 55.5p after the company warned that disappointing new orders would leave profits for the year Sameena Ahmad.

Christopher Cliffe, chief executive, said that recent allegations from animal rights oups which had led to criminal proceedings against several employees and a Home Office Bill Castell, Amersham's investigation into the group's hief executive who becomes working practices had proved seriously disruptive: "Considerable management effort has been devoted to keeping clients informed and to retaining

clients' confidence," he said. Glaxo Wellcome and Zeneca

The share price of Huntingdon Life Sciences, the controversial group which tests drugs on animals, dived by 15 per cent to umentary which showed scenes of cruelty to animals at its Cambridgeshire laboratory. Smith-Kline Beecham and Zeneca are

awaiting the Home Office report.

Shares in the company feli from 121p following the programme. Huntingdon said yesterday that recent monthly new orders of £m-£5m were below expectations and that marketing programmes to increase new orders had been "negatively impacted by the allegations".

Mr Cliffe said Huntingdon would incur a small loss in the first half after providing £1m for additional costs relating to allegations. He expected the group to return to profit in 1997.

Analysts agreed that the deal made strategic sense and would be earnings enhancing, though numbers were complicated by the change in year end, £80m cost savings from restructuring at Nycomed following last year's profits warning and the inclu-sion of the Pharmacia business.

Nigel Barnes, pharmaceutical analyst at Merrill Lynch, said: "This makes an enormous amount of sense given both companies are in the imaging markets. There are synergies too though not great overlap since the new group will be in four different imaging markets." James Dodwell at BZW expects the merger to add around 85p to earnings and is looking for 105p earnings and pre-tax profits of £240m for the year to December 1998.

However, several analysts said privately that competition in Nycomed's mature X-ray imaging business - over 80 per cent of its £154m profits last year - could erode cost savings. Following its blocked merger with generic drug group Ivax last year, Nycomed lost share to rivals who were discounting prices by up to 60 per cent.

Though Mr Jacobsen said that the discounting is levelling off, the key test will be whether, or on what terms, two of Nycomed's US contracts worth 15 per cent of Nycomed's sales are

There were also concerns that following the merger some 88 per cent of the group's profits will be earned overseas. The group, which is considering paying foreign income dividends, said that if sterling continued at current levels. pro-forma profits would be cut by £30m.



Anglo-Norwegian alliance: Amersham chief executive Bill Castell (right) with Trond Jacobsen, chief executive of Nycomed Photograph: Peter Macdiarmid

Airtours TIT chief to set up new base.

Andrew Yates

David Crossland, chairman and founder of the UK's secondlargest tour operator, Airtours, is moving to America to over-see the company's international expansion programme. The move is bound to fuel speculation that Mr Crossland is seeking to strengthen ties with Carnival, the US cruise company which owns a near 30 per cent stake in Airtours and is widely expected to mount a fullbid for the group.

Mr Crossland's decision to:

move from the UK marks an important change in Airtours' strat-egy, heralding a push to expand its international operations.

"Mr Crossland is going overseas to develop Airlours' business over there. He will travel extensively from his base in America. It shows that Airtours is not perceived as just a UK tour operator anymore. It is an international business." said an Airtours spokesman.

Mr Crossland will live in America for at least two years, but he may stay indefinitely. He will be based in California. Among Mr Crossland's first

tasks will be to reverse the decline in the company's North American business, which lost £1.2m in the six months to March compared to a profit of £2.9m the year before. Overcapacity has dogged its Canadian business, leading 100 depressed prices and mounting losses and adding to speculation that Airtours may be forced to exit this market.

Airtours also incurred start-up osses at its California tour business. But Mr Crossland is uniderstood to be keen to rapidly expand the US business, building up its cruise business and en-

tering the time share sector. Mr Crossland will also look for acquisitions. Last month-Airtours paid \$20m (£12m) for Californian tour operator Suntrips. More US purchases look set to follow. Mr Crossland is: also likely to target South

America and the Far East. Last month Lars Thuesen: former deputy chief executive. of Airtours' Scandinavian business, became the new head of the group's UK tour and retail business which has paved the: way for Mr Crossland's move to: the US. Airtours has no plans to close its Lancashire headquarters and move lock, stock and barrel across the Atlantic

Smith warns ITV's regional differences must stay

Cathy Newman

Chris Smith, Secretary of State for National Heritage, warned yesterday that the regional identity of the ITV companies must not be lost amid the rapid consolidation taking place in the

industry. He also dismissed as unlikely the recent predictions by Gerry Robinson, chairman of Granada Group, which is buying York-shire-Tyne Tees Television, that all the ITV stations would merge within a decade. Speaking at an Institute of

casting, Mr Smith said four big owners - Carlton Communications, Granada, United News & Media and Scottish Media Group - would emerge. He added: "In the course of the next few months, we will see the establishment of three major blocks of ITV channels in Eng-

He said he was "relaxed" about the rapid consolidation of ITV into the hands of four main players, but warned that

chise must not be sacrificed in

land and Wales and one in

Economic Affairs Conference the regional character and pro- of a month, Scottish has bought the creation of Ofcom, a Oftel and the ITC must co-op- the broadcaster's distinctivethe rush to rationalise.

"It's extremely important that as the regions of ITV come together we do ensure that the regional character of the stations and the programme making is maintained. We do not want to see the regional definition disappearing as more and more gets concentrated in the hands of fewer and fewer," he added.

His comments come at a time of frenetic takeover activity in the industry. Within the space has tabled an agreed bid for Yorkshire-Tyne Tees; and United has made a recommended of-

fer for HTV Group.
The 15 ITV franchises were awarded to 14 separate holding companies in 1993. If, as seems likely, the two most recent offers go through, only three small independent companies will re-main - Border Television, Ulster Television, and Channel Islands Communications.

The Heritage Secretary also ference" between the two yesterday alluded to plans for watchdogs. He warned that

regulatory body to cover the erate on the regulation of dig-ness, its provision for minority converging media and telecommunications industry. Mr Smith said laying new regulatory framework would take at least "We will make sure the curtwo years and would follow

widespread consultation. Referring to public disagreements between the Independent Television Commission and Oftel on BSkyB's involvement in British Digital Broadcasting, he said he had observed a slight nuance of dif-

ital television until a new framework could be estab-

rent regulators work properly together in accordance with their remits," he said. He said his department was working in conjunction with the Department of Trade and

Industry to consider how Ofcom should be developed.

Mr Smith also indicated yesterday that Channel 4's remit should be redefined to ensure interests and its "ability to be less mainstream" Under the terms of the 1990

Broadcasting Act, Channel 4 is obliged to screen a suitable proportion of programming not generally catered for by Channel 3. This definition is likely to be honed in a new broadcast-

However, Mr Smith has already indicated that there will be no new media legislation in this session of Parliament. which runs until October 1998.

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NatWest shares hit record high on rumours of strike

Nigel Cope City Correspondent

Shares in National Westminster Bank soared to a record high vesterday as renewed takeover speculation surrounded the group. NatWest shares closed 42.5p higher at 849.5p with some City dealers talking of an 'imminent strike". Barclays. Commerzbank of

Germany and the Royal Bank of Scotland were all mentioned as possible bidders though most analysts dismissed takeover talk as little more than rumour. "No one is selling, so any ru-

mour is making the stock fly," said one analyst. NatWest declined to com-

ment on the speculation, as did Barclays and Commerzbank. One analyst said Commerzbank was too small to make a tilt at NatWest as it was only half its size. Royal Bank of Scotland would be in an even weaker position as it is around a third the Some analysts said Prudential

could be interested in NatWest as it remained keen to expand in banking while NatWest was interested in expanding in life assurance. However, any of the big four UK clearing banks would face regulatory problems as a takeover would give a merged clearer such a big share in retail banking. NatWest would be valued as a "going concern", meaning a bidder would have to take a goodwill write-off of up to £7bn. Analysts said this would be too much even for a giant like HSBC. Shares in other banks such as

Lloyds TSB, Bank of Scotland and Royal Bank of Scotland all rose strongly yesterday.
Analysts were also dismissive

about a possible link-up between NatWest Markets and BZW, the investment banking

respectively. They said management would struggle to in-tegrate the two without damaging profitability and losing key staff. "It would take unbelievable management skills to pull it off," one analyst said.

The share surge follows a de-cision on Monday by the Takeover Panel to turn down a request by NatWest to force Barclays to make a statement about any bid plans. Alistair Defriez, the panel's director-general, said he saw no reason to intervene. Nat West approached Abbey National about a possible link-

up earlier this year and there has been speculation since about a link with another financial institution. NatWest was plunged into a financial crisis last month when it issued a profits warning and the head of its investment banking arm resigned. Colin said EM the altar three but this is the stons which cost the bank £77m.

EMI secures copyright to Motown classics for £132m

EMI Group, one of the world's largest music publishers, has secured the copyright to 15,000 classic Motown hits such as My Girl and I Heard It Through the Grapevine in a \$132m (£80m)

The company has taken a 50 per cent stake in the Jobete companies – Jobete Music Co and Stone Diamond Music Corporation - owned by the founder of Motown Records, Berry Gordy. Sir Colin South-gate, EMI's chairman, said yesterday it was likely EMI would buy the remainder of the

Jobete companies in the future. He added that EMI had, through protracted negotiations, gained control of "the greatest private catalogue". Sir Colin said EMI had "been to. the altar three times with Berry. but this is the first time we've

MFI Furniture Gp 129

The Jobete catalogue in- world as a result of yesterday's cludes Motown classics sung by artists such as Stevie Wonder, acquisition.

City analysts were impressed with the deal. One said the price Diana Ross, the Jackson Five.

Lionel Richie and Smokey Robinson. Through the deal, which was funded entirely in cash. EMI has bought the copyright to songs such as Bahy Love, Ain't No Mountain High Enough and Reach Out I'll Be There. Sir Colin said he was confident EMI's full ownership of Mr Gordy's catalogue would not be "decades away". It is thought EMI would take control of the

Jobete companies on Mr Gordy's retirement, if not before. Mr Gordy, who will remain chairman of the business, is 67. Day-to-day operation of the catalogue will be handled by Martin Bandier, chief executive

of EMI Music Publishing. EMI already had a marketing agreement with Mr Gordy outside North America, which will be extended throughout the

paid was "not unreasonable" and added: "Consolidation in music publishing is a good idea. Music publishing is a very prof-itable business." Another said EMI would "do very well" by including the songs in compila-tions. EMI Music Publishing already owns the copyright to more than 1 million songs, including those by Jamiroquai, M People, and the Prodigy.

Unaudited accounts show that, at 31 December 1995, the Jobete companies had net assets of \$45.2m and reported pre-tax profits of \$6.7m. The two companies are owned by Mr Gordy and his sister Esther Edwards and was the largest remaining independently owned catalogue. Jobete Music was founded in 1959, and became the music publishing arm of Motown Records.

Super-SIB will face problems, warns Imro

Nic Cicutti Personal Finance Editor

Phillip Thorpe, chief executive of Imro. the fund managers' watchdog, warned yesterday that Labour proposals for a powerful single regulatory body, dubbed "super-SIB" by the City, risked creating a "massive

bureaucracy".

Mr Thorpe said the enlarged
Securities and Investments Board (SIB), headed by Howard Davies, which would swallow up his own organisation, offered the prospect of a simpler, more inegrated form of regulation. There are some gains to be

made from such a move, the elimination of gaps and over-laps, the levelling of unlevel playing fields, the more efficient use of resources and so on," Mr Thorpe said. There are also some predictable concerns to be recognised: particularly that this could create a massive regulatory bureaucracy, unable to respond to the rapid change of the markets, or given to seek-ing common solutions where previously bespoke arrangements best accommodated investor and business needs." Imro is part of a project

team set up by the SIB and which includes the Bank of England working on plans that will be submitted to Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, by the end of July. Mr Brown announced plans to pass supervision of the banking community from the Bank of England to the SIB within days of Labour winning the General Election. The second phase will see

other self-regulatory organisa-

from last year.
In the 12 months to April.

nearly all pensions mis-selling cases in which its membersi were involved had been re-

tions, such as Imro, the Securitions rities and Futures Authority (SFA) and the Personal Invest-

believed Mr Brown would be "on guard" to avoid the potential pitfalls in his proposals. He said: The regulator must be, and must be seen as, inde-pendent in its operation and must have the knowledge, involvement and support of the industries it seeks to regulate. It must also be open and accountable if it is to secure the

ment Authority (PIA), folder

into the SIB within the next

three years.

Mr Thorpe stressed that he

confidence of investors and: those who it regulates." The Imro chief executive's comments were made as the regulator published the annue al report on its activities. The regulator said it had 44 invess tigations in hand at the end of March 1997 while 43 disciplinary actions had been taken during the year, up 26 per cent

1997, Imro levied more than £3.5m in fines and investigation. costs from its members, up from £835,000 the previous year. That total did not include the £2m, plus £1m in costs, levied in April on Morgan Grenfell, the fund managed ment group owned by Deutsche Bank, over the irregular trading activities of its activities of its rogue fund man-

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ager, Peter Young Imro said yesterday it had

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COMMENT

Whatever popular

measures Mr Brown

burden compared

Budget'

with last November's

Irrational exuberance could evaporate quickly

Tas irrational exuberance finally crossed to this side of the Atlantic? The stock market yesterday made its biggest one-day gain since the crash of 1987. The driving force was the expectation that Gordon "Irn-Bru" Brown will deliver a tough, tax-raising Budget that will also contain special measures to help business. It is hard to recall when business and the City last called for tax increases, but that seems to be what they want this time round. Consumers to suffer? Hurrah, say the markets.

Whatever popular measures Mr Brown announces to help young people into work or boost families on low incomes, the bottom line as far as the City is concerned will be the net increase in the tax burden compared with last November's Budget. If it looks as if that burden is going to fall on consumer spending rather than companies, then that's good news, the markets figure.

The reckoning is that if this tax increase exceeds, say, £5bn, there will be less need or excuse for the Bank of England to raise interest rates again. Most of the City is firmly convinced that it is the expectation of rising base rates that accounts for the uncomfortably strong pound. The theory is that if rates do not need to climb much further because tax hikes can head off a boom, then the pound will stop climbing too. This argument makes a few questionable assumptions. For one thing, the level of base rates is only one possible explanation for the strong pound. and it might therefore stay strong even if the

prospects for UK interest rates change. For another, it takes a net £10bn rise in

taxes to do the same cooling work as a 1 per-centage point rise in base rates, according to most economic models. It would take at least this much tightening in policy to return the economy to a steady path. It is just about possible that Mr Brown would be prepared to add this much to the personal sector's tax bill, but it would be an extraordinary turnaround from Labour's manifesto.

Even so, the markets are probably right to anticipate a tighter Budget than anybody expected at first. On the other hand, they are equally likely to be overdoing it. Yesterday's high expectations may well he disappointed today. Similarly, the expectation that base rates will peak at a level below 7.5 per cent and stay there, implied by the short sterling futures market, is also likely to be disappointed in the longer run. Even in the best inflation environment since the 1960s, the business cycle peak for interest rates will almost certainly be higher. When that realisation sinks in, the exuberance could evap-

Merger should be good for Amersham's health

orate rather swiftly.

Amersham International is a curious company. Most people have heard of it. but hardly anyone outside the City and the medical profession knows what it actually does. Even fewer can tell you the purpose of what it does. It was also the previous gov-ernment's first privatisation, and if you've

Now it's merging with Nycomed of Norway to create the world's largest supplier of in-vivo diagnostic imaging agents. This is the highly specialist but, in parts, fast-growing business of supplying hospitals with chemical agents, some of them radioactive, that assist in medical diagnosis. Well, all right. Let's start again. It's the business of... Oh, forget it. Amersham helps doctors find out what's wrong with you. Let's leave it at that.

Despite doubts, this is probably a good deal for Amersham. Bill Castell, chief executive, has been pursuing it for some years and together with the recently announced linkup with Pharmacia & Upjohn, it completes a carefully planned assent into a world leading position in these markets. Amersham is still the smaller of the two companies, but in recent years it has been far more successful.

By contrast, Nycomed, operating at the naturer end of the market, has had a troubled few years. Though this is no rescue takeover, Amersham is certainly ending up with a much larger share of the action - 47 per cent - than it could have hoped for when Mr Castell first began to run his slide rule over the company a few years back. It also seems to be getting the more important executive jobs, so much so that the deal could almost be characterised as a reverse takeover by Amersham.

Doubts none the less remain. Is Amersham reversing into a dog? The £40m of own Moët Hennessy into the planned get-annual cost savings anticipated from the merger could easily be wiped out should Until he puts something on the table, it is Anglo-French standoff is going to be resolved.

held the shares since the beginning, you would have done spectacularly well.

Now it's magning with heart six that come up for renewal over the next six months. However, both companies seem to have some promising new products and applications in the pipeline. Both companies are also in the hyper trendy field of providing alternatives to invasive surgery, thus offering the prospect of real reductions in health care costs. The fact that they com-plement each other geographically is an added bonus. So although Nycomed Amersham will probably remain, for most people at least, a deeply obscure company, it looks destined to carry on quietly earning its shareholders an excellent return.

No easy way to resolve Anglo-French standoff

What does Bernard Arnault, the mercurial head of France's LVMH, really want? George Bull and Tony Greener, chairman of Grand Met and Guinness respectively, are flying to Paris today, hoping to find out. All they know for sure is that he doesn't approve of the planned merger of the two companies, so much so that he's spem nearly £160 stake building in Grand Met and has launched an all-out legal assault on the deal through the French courts. He also mutters inscrutably about the need to bring his

hard to know how Grand Met and Guinness.

or their shareholders, should respond.

Mr Arnaul's original idea was that the Grand Met/Guinness merger should be abandoned in favour of a separate get-together of the three companies' branded drinks subsidiaries, IDV, United Distillers and Moet Hennessy. But although this might industrially seem like the sounder approach, it is hard to see how it would result in enhanced value for either Guinness or Grand Met, given that both companies would have ended up with minority holdings in the new super-drinks group. That might be the way things are done in France, but even Mr Armault must realise that Anglo Saxon investors are just not going to have that bind of a dual to buy that kind of a deal.

So what does he hope to achieve? One possibility is that he is trying to lever up the price of Moet Hennessy. Let's be clear about this. He has no intention of selling outright for cash to Les Ros Bifs. That would be too much of a betraval. But for paper, maybe. One of his newspapers in France has already speculated that Mr Arnault might end up with 45 per cent of GMG Brands. That's obviously an exaggeration, but a stake large enough to exercise control is certainly very possible.

Unfortunately, that too would have Anglo

Saxon investors screaming sell orders down their phones. Mr Arnault is a brilliant and determined businessman, but can he be trusted to run GMG Brands not just in his own inter-

IN BRIEF Rothschilds reveals £74m operating profit

The Rothschild family published the profits of their banking empire

for the first time in its 199-year history. Rothschilds Continuation Holdings, the Swiss-based holding company, made an operating

profit of SFr179m (£74m) in the year to the end of March, an increase of 66 per cent on the previous year. Operating income rose 52 per cent to SFr839m. The London-based operations N M Roths-

child contributed £124m, about a third of the total and up 4 per cent on the year. Group share capital is SFr1.2bn, which puts it in the same league as Hambros as a medium-sized merchant bank.

Four directors of Metroline, including managing director Declan

O'Farrell, stand to make an instant profit of up to £1.6m when the London bus group floats on the stock market later this month. They are selling up to 20 per cent of their holdings. Metroline's drivers and other staff will make an average profit of around £10,000

each and Metroline plans to award them another 1 per cent of

the company in share options. The employees will also be given

the opportunity to subscribe for £1m worth of shares in the group.

Royal Bank of Scotland has sold half of the life insurance and unit

trust business of Direct Line, its telephone-based financial services

arm, to Scottish Widows, the mutual insurance company, for an

to use the insurer's expertise to sell personal pensions over the phone.

Abbey National is to charge more than 450,000 savers in its In-

stant Plus Account £1 for every transaction made at the coun-

ters of all its branches. A spokesman said charging would start

in September. The move was prompted by the fact that although

the account was meant to be linked to automated cash machine

use, many Instant Plus customers still used counter services. There

nk and Scottish Widow

Scottish Widows buys into Direct Line

£1 charge for Abbey National savers

Investment Column, page 24

Metroline directors in line for £1.6m

Markets soar on hopes of tax rises

Diane Coyle Economics Editor

Share prices soared and the pound fell back from its fiveyear highs yesterday as the financial markets concluded that today's Budget would be tough enough to reduce the need for higher interest rates.

The FISE TOO INDEX rea more than 123 points to 4,728.0, in its second biggest one-day rise on record. It was the largest gain in share prices since the recovery from the 1987 stock market crash. Meanwhile, the pound slipped back from its overnight high of DM2.91 to end at just under DM2.89. Its index against a range of currencies fell by 0.5 to 101.6.

Pre-Budget speculation that Gordon Brown will deliver tax increases designed to dampen the budding consumer boom accounted for the stock market cuphoria, analysts said. This would reduce the pressure on the Bank of England to cool the economy by increasing base

Steve Wright at BZW said: "This was the last thing you'd ex-

Chris Godsmark

Business Correspondent

The Post Office could have to

inject a further £150m a year

into its pension schemes,

enough to force the organisation

to raise the price of postage stamps, if the Chancellor makes

sweeping changes to the taxa-

tion of share dividends in to-

pect before a Labour Budget." But the market was reacting to rumours that Gordon Brown would target consumers with much higher taxes, he said.

Many experts have been calling on the Chancellor to get tough in his first Budget because rising interest rates have helped drive the pound to an uncom-

But even as the financial markets concluded that the "Iron Chancellor" would live up to his reputation by targetting the housing market and raising "green" and "sin" taxes, Britain's biggest mortgage lender warned him that the housing market was not booming

Halifax reported that house prices climbed 0.7 per cent in June, to a level 7.1 per cent higher than a year ago. This was far tamer than separate figures last week from Nationwide. Halifax said: "There is no need for any specific Budget measures aimed at curbing an allegedly booming housing market."

The latest business survey yes-terday, of purchasing managers in manufacturing, suggested the strong pound has not yet

tax credit on dividends for in-

knock 10 per cent off the £10bn

value of the two Post Office

funds. Richard Close, finance

director, warned the organisa-

tion would have to raise its pen-

sion contributions. The issue

is the sheer size of our pension

fund. It's the second or third



by Financial Secretary Dawn Primarolo and Chief Secretary to the Treasury Alistair Darling Photograph: Tony Buckingham

it has almost certainly hit profit margins on export business. Peter Thomson, director general of the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply, said:

"It is encouraging that exports have not yet been hit by the pound. What is left of British industry is a good deal more efficient than it used to be." But Robert Barrie, chief

come if Mr Brown removed the reported record profits of £21m loss in its Parcelforce di-

£577m for the year to the end

cent, and intensified its cam-

paign for greater commercial freedom. The increase came

from the 1p rise in the price of

stamps last year, which raised

£130m. The Post Office paid £285m of the profits to the Trea-

sury, while a further £216m

would go in corporation tax.

harmed output or exports. But economist at BZW, said: "Right across the economy profit margins are under pressure. Companies are finding it hard to make money." Relief from the . strong pound was urgently needed, he warned.

Most economists have been predicting only modest tax increases, amounting to less than £5bn, on top of the windfall tax on privatised utilities. Yesterday

vision last year on strikes at Roy-

al Mail, which it said had put off

new customers. It also an-

nounced the creation of 400 jobs

in a £10m telephone marketing

centre in Sunderland. A further

three call centres are planned

by Subscription Services, the business which collects BBC li-

Announcing his retirement as

cence fees.

Stamp prices could rise to fund Post Office pensions

these expectations had been revised up, with the City now expecting a rise in the tax burden big enough to make a difference to the interest rate outlook.

Analysts warned that the markets would fall in an equally dramatic fashion if these new

expectations were disappointed. The stock market would be very much disappointed if Gordon Brown doesn't deliver

warned the Government not to

spend too long on its review of the Post Office's operations.

"The Post Office has to be

treated as more than a cash cow

for Government. It's possible for

Government to continue to

benefit from the Post Office's

profitability while offering more

commercial freedom to compete

with post offices from abroad."

In a submission to the De-

now," said Mr Wright. A warning signal was the fact the gains have been concentrated on a relatively small number of stocks,

Since the start of this year five shares - HSBC, Glaxo Wellcome, Lloyds TSB, Shell and SmithKline Beecham - have accounted for nearly 60 per cent of the rise in the FTSE 100. Market Report, page 25

the Post Office will urge for a fixed percentage of profits to be

paid as a dividend to the Trea-

sury each year, rather than a vari-

able cash target. It will also ask for freedom from public spend-

ing and pay limits, and the abil-

ity to make acquisitions and

form joint ventures. Though the

DTI previously ruled out pri-vatisation, Post Office sources

suggested a partial share sale

could be on the political agenda.

are no plans to charge other accountholders from using counter services, the spokesman added. Lewis gains stake in Italian football club

English National Investment Company, the investment trust in which Mr Joe Lewis acquired a controlling stake in 1995, has paid £2.4m in cash for a 29.9 per cent stake in Otto, the holding company which last month bought the football club Vicenza, the winners of the 1997 Coppa Italia. It also acquired rights to lift its stake to 62 per cent for a total investment of around £5m. equal to about a third of the price of Alan Shearer and half the cost of Juninho, the Brazilian international, Other shareholders in Otto include Stellican, a Milanbased investment company, the football marketing group CSI and Pangolin, a private investment company owned by Robert Hersey, managing director of Telepiu, the Italian pay-TV group.

Boeing takeover gets US go-ahead

The US Federal Trade Commission approved the takeover of Mc-Donnell Douglas by Boeing. The deal now goes to the European Union competition commissioner Karel van Miert who is expected to rule on the merger by the end of the month. EU officials are concerned about the exclusive supply agreement Boeing has signed with Delta, American Airlines and Continental.

Pearson sells stake in Troll for \$92m

Pearson has sold its 49 per cent stake in Troll Communications for \$92m (£55.5m) to Torstar Corporation, a Canadian publicly quoted company. The proceeds will be used to reduce Pearson's net borrowings.

Safeway sees sales rise 11 per cent

Safeway like-for-like sales in the year to date were up 3.2 per cent. with total group sales up 7.3 per cent, David Webster, chairman, told the annual general meeting. Total sales have grown by 11 per cent, helped by transfers of stores from Presto. Consumer prices are on average 0.5 per cent below last year, with volumes up by a "healthy" 3.7 per cent.



largest in the UK," he said. aday's Budget. chairman, Sir Michael Heron partment of Trade and Industry The Post Office yesterday The Post Office blamed a The full burden, which would MDIS suspends share listing

stitutional investors, would of March, an increase of 37 per

Andrew Yates

Dealings in shares in beleaguered McDonnell Information Systems computer services group were suspended yesterday pending the results of a rescue refinancing package. MDIS is trying to raise more an £20m through a placing of new shares and is expected to announce it made a loss of almost £40m in 1996. It lost £39.4m in 1995.

MDIS has been forced to make huge provisions to cover a host of loss-making contracts demand for shares is encourit took on several years ago.

John Klein, chief executive who chairman of Close Brothers joined the group last year as part of a management shake-up, is desperate to draw a line under a disastrous few years for the

"We have thrown the kitchen sink at it. This is an attempt to create a new start for MDIS after the problems of the past," a company spokesman said.

MDIS advisers, Close Brothers, insist that they would be

aging," said Colin Keogh,

corporate finance yesterday. It is thought existing share-holders could subscribe for more than half of the shares. Most of the original investors in MDIS already bailed out when the true extent of its problems came to light soon after its

One industry source suggested that many of its current shareholders only bought shares recently and are sticking by able to raise enough money to save the group. "The refinancthe group in the hope that the loss on their investment can be ing is progressing well and the mitigated. MDIS has been one of the

worst new issues in recent years It was floated by Barings and Nat West at 260p just over three years ago and the shares have plummeted to just 23.5p before being suspended. Its market value has slumped from £260m to £25m.

Last month MDIS made its fifth profit warning since it floated. It said it would make "very substantial" losses for the year to December 1996 and would have to raise money to rebuild its balance sheet and cash position. Its problems stem from taking on contracts that it

was unable to service properly.

with spirits groups It is thought that GrandMet and Guinness would be prepared to give Mr Arnault an

Arnault set to talk

Talks that are scheduled to be held this afternoon between Bernard Arnault, the combative head of the LVMH luxury goods group, and Guinness and Grand Metropolitan over the two spirit groups' £23bn merger appear doomed to failure unless one side is prepared to make a last minute concession.

Guinness, which has a 34 per cent stake in LVMH's Moet Hennessy drinks division, and Grand Metropolitan believe that a merger would be in the general interests of their shareholders and are determined to push the deal through.

But LVHM, which is the largest shareholder in both Guinness and GrandMet, wants to break up the deal. Instead Mr Arnault wants to broker a merger of Moet Hennessy with the IDV and United Distillers, the respective spirits divisions of GrandMet and Guinness. Neither party seemed willing to compromise yesterday and both

equity stake in the combined spirits business providing the Guinness and GrandMet merger goes through. But LVHM is understood to have ruled out such a proposal. Mr Arnault is also unwilling to sell LVMH's 66 per cent stake in Moet Hennessy to Guinness.

Mr Arnault has spent £800m buying a 6.4 per cent stake in GrandMet over the last month in an apparent attempt to increase his bargaining power at the negotiating table. But he needs 25 per cent of Grand-Met's shares to block the

If the talks fail the fate of the merger will then be in the hands of the French courts. Mr Arnault believes the Guinness-GrandMet merger signifies a change of control of Guinness and triggers a pre-emptive right by LVHM to buy back the UK's company's minority shareholding in Moet Hennessy and it lucrative drinks distribution contracts around the world.

Orange tops mobile phone growth table April and June to 2.9 million, tomer contracts from 15 to 12 fore deducting interest, taxes

Chris Godsmark

Stiff competition for mobile phone customers in the spring saw Vodafone drop to last place in the race to expand the four tik networks while Orange maintained its lead. Figures released yesterday showed Vodagrew by just 53,000 between tive, said the reduction in cus-

down from 67,000 in the first quarter of the year and 146,000 in the last quarter of 1996.

Analysts blamed the drop on a tougher credit control policy introduced by Vodafone into service providers which sold the group's airtime. Chris kine's net UK subscriber base Gent, Vodafone's chief execuand the same of th

months had depressed the figures by some 35,000. Orange, the newest network, from Cellnet, which added

topped the growth table for the second quarter in a row, though the increase of 86,000 to 980,000 was below the 109,000 recorded between January and March. Orange announced it reveal subscriber growth of just

The biggest turnsround came 74,000 net new customers between April and June. The first quarter had been disastrous. with an increase of just 12,000. One 2 One will later this week

believed the other should take the lead in the negotiations.

C&W doubles its stake in Optus

Chris Godsmark **Business Correspondent**

Cable & Wireless unveiled a further expansion of its interests in the fast-growing Asia Pacific region yesterday, with a £445m deal to double its stake in Australia's second-largest phone

and cable TV group.

The agreement, revealed in The Independent last week, involves C&W buying the 24.5 per cent shareholding in the company, Optus Communications, for A\$980m (£445m) from its long-standing investor. Bell-South of the US. C&W already owns another 24.5 per cent of Optus, taking its total shareholding in the Sydneybased group to 49 per cent.

The deal is the latest in a string of agreements secured since Dick Brown, C&W's chief executive, joined the company a

its shares 18p higher in yesterday's buoyant trading to 570.5p.

C&W recently took over management control by appointing Peter Howell-Davies, former head of Mercury, as chief executive. Two other senior UK managers moved across to Australia at the same time.

C&W has also gained an option to increase its stake in Optus up to 51.5 per cent and Robert Lerwell, finance director, hinted it could increase its holding. "We don't think it's essential, but we'd have to look at the time. We may do it if it was good value and assuming the Australian government was happy for us to go higher."

Another 25 per cent Optus shareholder, Mayne Nickless, has also indicated it wanted to reduce its stake. Optus had been expected to float itself later

this year, enabling Mayne Nickless to find an exit route, but Mr Lerwell suggested this could be delayed. "It could be one year. two years or three years. We don't know."

Created in 1992, Optus has 18 per cent of the country's long distance phone market, with 1.9 million customers and 32 per cent of the mobile market. Its cable network also offers pay television services to 180,000 homes. Optus made its first fullyear profit last year of A\$60m

Mr Lerwell said C&W would fund the acquisition partly with the proceeds of the sale of a 5.5 per cent stake in Hongkong Telecom, which raised £770m at the current exchange rate. The Australian deal, coupled with C&W's \$652m (£407.5m) purchase of Panama's telephones operator, meant C&W's gearing would rise to almost 70 per cent.

Two ELC directors leave after review

main board director, will take

over the business until succes-

John Menzies managing

director David Mackay, who

took over in January, has com-

pleted his review of the 200-

strong chain and resolved not

to sell it. It is understood that

companies such as Kingfisher,

which owns Woolworths,

John Menzies said yester-day that "trading at ELC

looked at the company.

sors can be appointed.

Nigel Cope

Acrtech Intel (F)

Birkby (F)

John Menzies, the retail group, has announced a raft of management changes at its Early Learning Centre subsidiary, which was responsible for a profits warning from the group in January.

ELC's chief executive, Ian Duncan, and managing director, Andrew Crankshaw, are leaving. While they will be eligible for compensation for loss of office. the company said the pay-offs would not be excessive as the two directors were not on the main board and were on o vear contracts.

Comp

Turnover £

2.17m (1.75m)

61.12m (57.93n

152.8m (132.4n

32.34m (28.99m) 1.93m (2.41m)

Lymsdale Holdings (F) 1,66m (894,000) -630,000 (-437,000) -1.0p (-2.2p)

Leandon & Edillaburgin (F) 1.07an (355,444) 56.581 (-51,776) 0.23p (-0.29p) nii

873.2m (791.7m) 70.3m (58.1m) 8.24p (6.97p) 4.8p (4.4p)

21.50m (19.50n

опе-	competi	tion and og habits".					
pany Results							
Pre-tax	£	Dividend					
-1.13m	(-362,188)	-8.1p (-2.7p)					
a) 10.1m (l		15.4p (13.8p)	8.5p				
1) 7.21m (2.21m)	3.80p (0.42p)	1.25p (0.60p)				
) 2.65m (1.39m)	12.22p (7.27p)	4.75p (3.59p)				
2 N7m (1	1 33mi	4.4p (2.9p)	1.250				

11.4p (15.6p) 7.0p (7.0p)

Luard sells Flextech shares Dermot Jenkinson, chairman of ELC and a John Menzies

Roger Luard, chief executive of Flextech, the cable and satellite television programmer, yester-day sold £4.3m worth of shares in the company to its main investor, writes Cathy Newman. Mr Luard sold 698,435 shares

to Tele-Communications International (TCI), Flextech's controlling shareholder, at 622.5p each. At the same time, Mark Luiz, group financial director, sold 50,000 shares to continues to be impacted by TCI.

Mr Luard signalled his in-tention to sell shares and options in the company in March, after tying up two joint ventures with the BBC to supply channels to pay-television.

The shares dropped from 770p to around 620p after the BBC announcement, and it is thought Mr Luard had been holding on for a higher price before selling. However, the 622.5p a share he eventually secured is some way off Flextech's year-high price of 802.5p.

Kitchen sales should boost MFI

There are few stock market sectors as highly volatile as retailing at the moment where the slightest slip is punished mercilessly. Just ask shareholders in MFI. Shares in the furniture group soured from 115p at the beginning of 1995 to 209p last autumn on strong sales increases and the

recovering housing market. But news of a sales slowdown in March hammered the stock, which

halved to just over 100p.

With its volatile past, the market has always been slightly jumpy about MFI so it is no surprise that the retail watchers are divided on the prospected. for the group, which yesterday reported a 21 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £70.3m for the year to 26 April.

On the positive side, like-for-like sales have started to move ahead since the May election and in the first nine weeks of the year are 5 per cent up on the same period last year.

That compares with a strong increase of 15 per cent the previous year and so is a creditable achievement. Perhaps the most encouraging news is the level of enquiries for kitchens

which are thought to be ahead by a double-digit figure on last year.

MFI typically converts 60 per cent of these enquiries into sales and it is the more expensive kitchens such as

Schreiber that are generating the most Then there are the Homeworks conversions where half the stores have been updated to the new format which offers wider ranges and an airier feel. These conversions still deliver a strong

sales increase. But there are still uncertainties over MFI's market. One issue is the degree to which it will benefit from the windfall factor which John Collier, chief executive, says has not yet filtered through to its kitchen and bathroom

Another is the housing market which MFI says is not booming outside London and could be hit by today's Budget measures on mortgage interest tax relief and stamp duty.
It is also unclear how MFI is faring

on market share. It admits that it is reviewing its position in upholstery, which accounts for 3 per cent of group sales and does not make any money. And with strong sales from the likes of B&Q and the John Lewis Partnership these gains must be coming from somewhere.

Another concern is rising costs with higher interest charges as well as rising rent and rate costs. Capital expenditure jumped from £60m to £73m last year and will rise to £80m in the

The wide spread of brokers' forecasts for MFI shows how hard the company

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY NIGEL COPE

Clearly, management has made strenuous efforts to rein in costs which

Even so. Crust has cashed in on the

gathering south-east housing boom.

Overall reservations jumped by more

than 30 per cent in the period, lead-

ing to a 10 per cent rise in numbers of

boost the average selling price by 8.6 per cent to £104,000.

Naturally, what happens with mort-gage interest relief and stamp duty in

today's Budget is causing the company

some concern, at least in the short term.

encouraging, given the continuing

strength of the market and the fact

The omens on that front are

Meanwhile, higher prices helped

had been running out of control.

is to judge. But on UBS's figure of £77.5m, the shares, down op to 129p yesterday, trade on a forward rating of 12. This is a 10 per cent discount to the sector and after recent weakness the

Crest cashes in on housing boom

rest Nicholson, the Surrey-based building and construction group, has been nothing if not accidenthouses sold. prone. The business had a torrid recession after over-extending its land bank in the 1980s and then came a cropper in 1995 as a result of mismanaged emansion in the Midlands and the East That led to a major clear-out of middle managers, but with a low base to build from and with half its business still in the currently accelerating south-east property market, Crest should have a fair wind behind it this year.

that the expected dip caused by the May general election failed to The interim figures to April certainly bear out that analysis. Pre-tax profits more than tripled rising from £2,21m

were some jitters yesterday that the formation of a new western division is the precursor to further geographic expansion.
So even with SBC Warburg bump-The figures were driven by residential housing, which saw margins soar from 3.8 per cent to 11.5 per cent.

ing up its full-year profit forecast by a third to £20m yesterday, the shares, up 1.5p at 104p, on a lowly forward multiple of 9, are only attractive for the The improvement is all the more impressive given that there was no help stout-hearted. from residential land sales this time. which raised £5.7m in the first half of

Metroline set for a comfortable ride

AND NOT DAME

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Ami Phi

Metroline, the London bus op-erator which is driving to the stock market later this month with a value of around £35m, looks an attractive prespect. Metroline's management bought the business from London Transport in 1994, one of 10 such businesses privatised over the past few years. Since then turnover has risen from £16m to £37m and profits have more than tripled to £3m.

Most of its income is fixed and regulated by London Transport, which has awarded it five-year franchises to run services throughout north-west London. But by improving efficiency and cutting back on overheads Metroline has been able to significantly improve margins. It has already done most of the hard work and margins are un-likely to rise much further. That said, Metroline is winning plenty of new work from competitors as new routes come up for grabs and the London bus market should continue to grow steadily if the Labour government is serious about endorsing public transport. It is also growing the top line by diversifying into new areas such as providing buses on tourist excursions and supermarket shopping trips.

Acquisitions should follow quickly atter the flotation. It is raising up to £5m to pay off debts and give it the financial fire power to make purchases. Targets include the host of small bus companies in and around London.

Metroline forecasts profits of at least £4m for the year to this October. Analysts reckon the shares will be priced on a prospective price-earnings ratio of between 10 and 11. That puts the stock on at least a 20 per cent discount to rivals such as FirstBus or

Bid speculation is also likely to add spice to the share price. Metroline is believed to have had informal takeover talks with FirstBus. It has decided to go it alone but there are plenty of predators ready to pounce if its managers steer the wrong path. Investors

But with its history, the market will to £7.21m, on turnover 15 per cent want evidence from Crest that it has ahead at £153m. MFI: At a glance Market value: £761,4m, share price 129p 1996 1997 Five-year record 851 ...768.2 Pre-tax profits (£m) Earnings per share (D) 4.0 Share price (pence) Capital Expenditure (2)

Stagecoach.

Agnew leads Taylor by a length for the top job at Lloyd's

So who will replace Sir David Rowland as chairman of Lloyd's of London? A puff of white smoke is expected from the Lloyd's Council meeting in Lime Street today and Jonathan Agnew, former head man at Kleinwort Benson, is widely tipped for the job. Which is not to say that Max Taylor, chief operations officer of Willis Corroon, is

completely out of the running. Sir David Rowland was appointed on 1 January 1993. The chairman of the insurance market usually serves for three years. A firm of headhunters was commissioned this year and ended up with a shortlist of three - Mr Agnew, Mr Taylor and Adam Broadbent, a

former director of Schroders. The shortlist has been handed to a panel set up by Lloyd's to select a new chairman, headed by Sir Jeremy Morse. This panel reports to Lloyd's main council today.

Apparently Mr Broadbent has dropped off the list and Mr Agnew is leading Mr Taylor by a length. Interesting that two of the candidates should be former corporate finance men. Mr Broadbent did much to build Schroders' department before he retired from the merchant bank two years ago.

PEOPLE & BUSINESS

He also played a huge role in making the Schroders' connection with Wertheim in New York work, and is looked upon in the City as "well-respected, active and energetic". He is a director of Carclo ist maker of wire and cabling.

Engineering of Sheffield, a special-Mr Agnew is also a former corporate financier who reached the top at Kleinwort before it was swallowed by Dresdner Bank. An old

boy of Éton, the Sorbonne and

Trinity, Cambridge, Mr Agnew worked on The Economist, in Hill Samuel and in Morgan Stanley, as well as Kleinwort and his own financial consultancy, JGW Agnew.

Now Mr Agnew is chairman of Limit, the largest corporate investor in Lloyd's, which recently acquired two of Lloyd's largest managing agencies, Bankside and Janson Green. Which helps explain why he is the favourite for the Lloyd's chairmanship.

Skip this paragraph if you're squea-mish. The national symbol of South Africa is the springbok, a deer-like animal. Tourist shops in South Africa sell springbok skins. Following last Saturday's Test series victory by the British Lions over the Springbok rugby team, visiting British fans have taken to buying springbok skins and wearing them as a symbol of triumph, I am told. Gives a whole new meaning to the phrase "skinned alive".

Barclays Bank's investment banking arm, BZW, has promoted Graeme White from managing director, BZW Private Equity UK. to head of BZW Private Equity following the retirement of Errol

Mr Bishop had his retirement bash on Monday, having been with the firm since 1981. Mr White, 44, will take over re-

sponsibility for the operation world-wide, including France, Ger-many, Italy, Hong Kong and the US. BZW's specialist infrastructure team, which will establish an equity fund for investing in UK projects, will also report to him.



Favourite: Jonathan Agnew John Willcock is chairman of Limit

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792.1m shares. 53,716 bargains Gilts Index 96.99 -> +0.48



JASOND JEMAMJ

It was, by general consent, the of stock ahead of the Budget craziest day the stock market has experienced for years. For no obvious reason Footsie took off, scoring its second biggest gain in its 13 years

It all started with swirling stories that a bid for National Westminster Bank was about to materialise. Then the futures market soared, propelling the cash market higher.

Suddenly there were whispers the boys in dark glasses in the futures pit had got a whiff of at least some of the contents of Gordon Brown's Budget. And, ran the yarn, the market had little to fear, with much of the pain due to be inflicted on

Hopes that US interest rates would remain unchanged and a firm Government stocks market were other favourable influences.

With many market makers having decided to remain short one.

the sudden futures-led activity caught them on the hop. Their scramble for cover sent Footsie rocketing, with £24.4bn added to company values. The index gained a staggering 123.7 points to 4,728.3; it was the biggest jump since the turmoil of the 1987 crash although in percentage terms it lagged behind the ERM upsurge in

The index is now 54.8 below its closing peak, hit last month. Turnover was modest, underlining the technical nature of the upsurge. And the supporting indices were left limp-ing lamely behind. The FTSE 250 index gained a mundane 21.2 points and the FTSE SmallCap managed to record

a miserable 0.4 gain. Many market men were bemused by the Footsie charge. "It's bloody crazy; the market



MARKET REPORT

A crazy day as Footsie scores second-biggest gain

DEREK PAIN stock market reporter of the year

The NatWest story at one time had the bank leading the Footsie leader board. The shares were up 47p; they closed 42p higher at 849.5p in relatively busy trading. Comothers in the money. merzbank, the German group. was put forward as the new favourite to strike, although its bid candidature was dismissed

by most observers. The NatWest display in-spired other financials and with money shares now such a powerful Footsie influence the when the futures activity exploded. At the end of trading the September futures were showing a hefty premium to the

Lloyds TSB was top of the blue-chip pile with a 39.5p gain to 655.5p. Bank of Scottand, up 22p to 406p, and HSBC, 86p to 1,934.5p. were among the

Utilities were strong on the unexpectedly benign approach of Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, and stories that Mr Brown's windfall tax would not be too oner-ous. ScottishPower glowed 22p to 413p and Thames Water

flowed 34.5p to 728p. BSkyB led the motley col-lection of out-of-favour blue chips with an 11p fall to 429p. LucasVarity, undertaking a 1.5 million share buyback at 205p, was another to miss the fun, off

ture group, fell 5p to 164p. It is meeting analysis and ABN Amro Hoare Govett quickly cut its profits forecast by £10m

to £160m. Perkins Foods beld at 82.5p after Henderson Crosthwaite said buy. Iceland, the frozen food chain, hardened 5.5p to 87p; Nat West Securities lifted this year's profit forecast by £5m to £54m and next by £11m to £60m.

British Borneo Petroleum Syndicate rose 27.5p to 1,445p, with HSBC said to be making positive noises.

Amersham International's Amersham international s Norwegian merger prompted an 87.5p gain to 1,682.5p. It en-couraged thoughts of more industry deals, with Biocom-patibles International mov-ing 46p ahead to 1,347.5p. Results left MFI Furniture

off op at 129p; IOC Interna-

3.5p to 204.5p. Hillsdown company, suffered the day's Shares of Acorn, the combines, the food and furnible company, suffered the day's puter group, are weak, falling 67.5p after warning of a possible loss this year. In March the shares were 178.5p.

English National Investment Co, off 5p to 259p, confirmed it had taken a 29.9 per cent interest in Italian football club Vicenza. Bahamas-based mulwho has 25 per cent of Glasgow Rangers, controls ENIC.

Thomas Potts returned from

suspension after its failure to take over Coalite, 4.5p lower at 7.5p and Consolidated Coal was cut 5p to 7.5p following disclosures of more mining problems and plans to make a

£1.8m rights issue.

Regent linns was 0.5p lower at 284.5p. The shares railied 22p after the company said it knew of no reason for the recent share weakness. Earlier this month

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puter group, are weak, falling active trading. There are suggestions Olivetti, the Italian group, is planning to sell more shares through the Lehman Brothers investment house. The Italians, who have been selling assets to cut ti-millionaire Joseph Lewis, debts, once controlled Acorn. They have gradually reduced

their involvement and earlier this year Lehman sold shares to 20 institutions at around 190p. In its last year Acorn cut losses from £12.6m to 26.3m. Its shares topped 300p last year.

Bridport-Gundry, once famed for its fishing nets, is continuing to sell its traditional operations to concentrate on aviation products. It is selling a twine maker and a they were above 300p.

EFT jumped 38p to 172.5p on the Bank of Scotland bid.

fishing net operation for around £1.7m. The shares rose 17p to 116.5p.

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the killer instinct that won them the Test series with the Springboks in Durban at the weekend was absent without

Northern Free State the an-

ticipated mother of all pastings,

reports from Johannesburg

The Lions had

pledged to guard against it and they

could not have

been more sincere

in their promise,

but the almost in-

Northern Free State

British Isles

True, they put 10 tries past the Free Staters but they leaked five in reply and conceded a record 39 points in all. Not even the New Zealanders clock up more than the side

worst provincial outfit in South countered have been the Africa; the best the All Blacks have managed was a 38-point haul in the fourth Test in Auckland 14 years ago. Fran Cotton, the Lions man-

'Stamping' sours

Lions' stampede

iger, was quick to describe the match as "unsatisfactory", but not for the above reasons. He was reacting in typically forthright style to what he described as "several stampings" on the heads of various team members - allegations vehe-mently denied by the Northerns' hierarchy.

Cotton also gave both barrels to the referee. Dan de Villiers, and the rock-hard nature of the North West Stadium playing surface. It might, he suggested, have been safer all round had the game been played on reinforced concrete.
"It could have been dangerous out there," Ian

McGeechan, the coach, agreed, "We've tried to play the game in the right way over here - you can't play the style of rugby we've aspired to without immense self-discipline in their pomp managed to and most of our opponents have showed discipline, too. mocked and harangued as the The only problems we've en-

England lose Guscott

Jeremy Guscott, the Lions' 27-man squad was announced match-winning hero of the second Test in South Africa, has withdrawn from the England squad for the one-off international against Australia.

The Bath centre wants to return home to see his new-born daughter Shaskia and the selectors have called up Northampton's Matt Allen in his place for the game on 12 July at Sydney Football Stadium. It is the fourth change since the junior grand slam of 1992.

eight days ago. The selectors called up winger Jon Sleightholme (Bath), hooker Richard Cockerill (Leicester) and centre Nick Greenstock (Wasps) last Friday in place of in-jured trio Adedayo Adebayo, Phil Greening and Will Greenwood. The 23-year-old Allen has toured Canada and the Netherlands with his school team and played for England Under-18s in their

games in Mpumalanga and here, and we'll look at the video of this one to see what went on. When Tony Underwood, the

Newcastle wing, matched Rob Wainwright's achievement against Mpumalanga in the fourth match of the tour by running in a hat-trick of tries in the opening 23 minutes, the proverbial cricket score looked a certainty rather than a possibility. Indeed, a three-figure tally was not beyond the realms of the imagination when Simon Shaw, Neil Back and Kyran Bracken crashed over for close-range tries before the break to send the Lions in for their oranges 43-12 to the good.

But a looseness and lack of focus seeped into the tourists' collective bloodstream in the second half and Northerns won that particular 40-minute battle 27-24. Much of that recovery could be credited to their captain, Jurie Jerling, who played a strong game at scrum-half. There were also thoroughly worthwhile contributions from Otto Wagner, the hooker, and Stephen Niewenhuyzen, a real handful of a middle jumper.

There was never the remotest danger of a genuine upset, however. Tim Stimpson's goal-kicking was once again up there on the Neil Jenkins plane - not only did he leave Welkom with 27 points in his swagbag, but also with the satisfaction of beating his Welsh rival to the century mark for the tour - and with Neil Back in characteristically sensational form and Mark Regan properformance of the trip up



Free Stater Koos Hevdenrich (No 4) shows his studs to the Lions' Jason Leonard in Welkom vesterday

Especially as they hit the ground running. Mike Catt, very much on his toes at standoff, combined cleverly with Tony Diprose and Stimpson to opener in the second minute ing on a strong run from Wag-and even though Nick Beal ner to score at the posts. Six sheen to the final scoreline. best

there at the sharp end, defeat conceded a penalty try by minutes into the second peri-was not a viable option. conceded a penalty try by minutes into the second peri-obstructing Willie Nagel in a od, the hooker emerged from chase for the line six minutes later, the traffic was of the one-

way variety. Northerns stemmed the tide in first-half injury time, pave the way for Underwood's Michael Ehrentraut capitalis-

obstructing Willie Nagel in a od, the hooker emerged from a pile of bodies with a try of his own to celebrate and even though the Lions were still able to score at regular intervals, last-quarter tries from Albertus van Buuren and Eric Herbert applied an unexpected

VETROME SETTINGSON !; PERMANY SOMPOSON.
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Photograph: David Rogers/Allsport A Bateman (Richmond and Wales), N Ber J Leonard (Hartequins and England, Ca. M Regen (Bristo) and England), D You (Cardiff and Wales), N Redman (Bath a England), S Shaw (Wasps and England) Malamatetic (Hartes)

Hackney joins Moseley as second wing in week leaves Leicester

Moseley have signed the England A winger Steve Hackney from Leicester. Hackney, 29, has scored 86 tries in 152 firstteam appearances after joining who was their leading try-scor-Leicester from Nottingham six er last season. Hackney, who lost their two most experi- University, has joined the Secenced wingers in a week following the departure of Rosy

Moseley hope Hackney will form an attacking wing partnership with former Irish international Darragh O'Mahony. ond Division club on a four-year full-time contract.

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portant member of New Zealand's Bledisloe Cup and years ago. It means the Pilkington Cup holders have now Hartlepool and Loughborough yesterday.

All Blacks' first training session Saturday should Mehrtens' He's played very well and I've Melbourne on 26 July and got no doubt he can do the job Dunedin, New Zealand on 16

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Mehrtens, who has been recuperating from a hamstring strain suffered against Fiji on 14

and he was replaced at outside-half by Carlos Spencer as prac-tice continued. Spencer played All Blacks coach, John Hart, Tri-nations campaign, is a tice continued. Spencer played doubtful starter for Saturday's in the two-Test series against Test against Australia. Mehrtens Argentina and will be slotted withdrew half-way through the into the pivotal role again on

"Carlos had been told quite clearly from last Sunday that there was a possibility the in-June, felt his muscles tighten jury wouldn't be right because

"He's in Test mode anyway,

for us. It's just that Andrew was the incumbent and deserved the

The selectors will wait as Auckland on 9 August.

long as possible before scratching Mehrtens' name from the team list, with Hart saying his chances of playing were 50-50.

The next two matches will so I have no worries there. double as Tri-nations Tests, in August. In between the All Blacks meet South Africa in Jo-

Hull discipline two Australian players

Rugby League

DAVE HADFIELD

Hull, who have signed two new overseas players with an eye to next season in Super League, have fined two of their existing ones for missing training.

The club, on the verge of the First Division Championship, paid Workington Town £10,000 for the New Zealanders, Brad Hepi and Logan Campbell, just before the transfer deadline. Hepi could make his debut at

Huddersfield on Saturday, in the match Hull need to win to clinch promotion, whilst Campbell needs a new work permit

before he can play.
As the Kiwis arrive, Hull have fined two of their Australians, Glen Liddiard and Gary Lester, for missing a training session before last weekend's defeat by Featherstone. The club believes that the two were in Wales, trying to arrange contracts to play rugby union this winter. Tevita Vaikona, the prolific try-scoring centre who missed the match with a knee injury, will be told by a specialist this week whether he can play

at Huddersfield. The Rugby League's director of referees, Greg McCallum, has warned of a sudden upsurge of foul play in last weekend's matches. No less than nine players were placed on report overworked referees and by overworked referees and five of them have been told they must appear before the disciplinary committee tomorrow. The St Helens forward

Derek McVey is charged with striking an opponent, and Stuart Lester of Wigan and Paul Forber of Salford with high tackles. Potentially most serious of all, Kelly Shelford and Nigel Vagana of Warrington are accused of a two-man spear tack-

le on Forber. "We are extremely concerned about the number of cases we have had to review this week, McCallum said, "Whilst we wish to encourage vigorous and fair play, it is obvious that some players have returned from the World Club Championship and exploited those principles in too vigorous a fashion."

St Helens will be without their forwards, Apollo Perelini and Dean Busby, for some weeks. Perelini needs an operation on his elbow, while Busby broke his fibula against Oldham on Sunday.

Salford have transfer-listed their Samoan forward, Lokeni Savelio, at his own request. Savelio, who complained about being used regularly as a substitute and who has been listed at £60,000, has been left out of the squad to play in Paris tonight.

Leeds have received a £400,000 grant from the Sports Grounds Initiative to build a new family stand at one end of their Headingley ground.

Jason Robinson and Gary

Conolly have been named in a Rest of the World side to play the ARL's Australian line-up in Brisbane on 11 July. They will miss the club's Super League fixture in Paris.

Cricket

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Football

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Croft creates an instant impression

made for Test cricket. You can see it in the way he goes from complete relaxution to total commitment when the ball is thrust into his hand. Some spend years trying to find the inner confidence that makes the transition from county to country feel natural and deserved. With Croft it took just two balls: his first to know he belonged, and one more to realise he wanted to stay.

Michael Atherton, another more suitably geared to the Test arena, remembers the moagainst Pakistan at The Oval last summer and their openers had just put on a hundred when I called him up to bowi," the England captain recalled. "Crofty was making his debut. But he didn't try to hide or look apologetic about it. He just marched up, handed his cap to the umpire and started telling me where he'd like his field. I was impressed."

Despite England's heavy defeat. Croft had bowled well on the ground where he had made his first-class debut for Glamorgan, seven years earlier. But if the figures: 2 for 116 from 47 overs, looked slightly unflatter-ing to the untrained eye, it did not prevent the odd cautious eulogy appearing in the press.

Of course, it was not all that long ago that off-spinners were thought to be an endangered species at Test level. Batsmenfriendly umpires. who allowed blatant use of the pad, allied to the use of heavy bats, had reduced the offic to feeding off crumbs. Regular sightings in an England sweater, especially after John Emburey had defected to South Africa in 1989. became rare.

Croft, however, despite his ruddy well-fed demeanour, instantly looked the part and with his upbeat nature has become one of America s trump cards alongside the equally effusive Gough. On tour, the pair were inseparable, their constant banter and high spirits causing David Lloyd, the England coach, to nickname them "The Children." Yet, as more than one England player has attested, all sides need boisterous and confident characters about the dressing-room, Too much quiet can make players freeze. But attitude alone is not a

guarantee of survival and the Welshman has had to cut the mustard with the ball. Unless they can but in the top six, a spinner cannot be carried solely as a defensive bowler and must take wickets.

The Bard of Wales has put a new spin on the role of England

him, much of his success due to a precious ability to drift the ball pad." With 24 wickets at 25.83 a precious ability to drift the ball away from the right-hander. It means he can beat batsmen on clearly an effective one. both sides of the bat; on the outside with his drift, and on the inside when it turns. Like the Australian bowler Tim May, who he says inspired him when the Aussies last toured here four years ago, the

ability means he can be used to attack as a wicket-taking option. Bowling to right-handers, he sets his line to hit off-stump. Until recently, most English off-spinners packed their on-side field and plugged away at middle and leg, in the hope that they would bore the batsman into submis-

The beauty of Croft's line is that he always brings his slip into play. According to Nasser Hussain, who fields there and gratefully pouches the catches. Croft's drift is deadly.

"Many players will play inside the line, expecting the ball to turn," Hussain reckons, "When it doesn't, I know I'm likely to So far, the 27-year old Croft be in business, especially if has punched his weight even on they've committed themselves

offie. Derek Pringle expects his talent and character to be put under pressure by Australia in the third Test, starting tomorrow pitches that have not suited early and the drift draws them

> from seven Tests the ploy is Bowling has not always gone as swimmingly, though, and before he changed his grip two win-ters ago, one of his "A" team colleagues from 1993, described

his bowling as "schoolboy off-'He just started telling me where he'd like the field. I was

spin." But while he did tend to lob the ball rather than tweak it. it was only when he was dropped by Glamorgan in 1994, that he was jolted into exploring other

impressed'

"Being left out came as a huge shock," he said. "But when I saw that it was down to me to win matches, especially in the fourth innings, which I wasn't achieving, I thought I'd better do something about it.

"My problem was that I was undercutting the ball and not spinning it properly. So that winter I began to experiment with different grips. Also my shoulders were breaking too early in the action, so I changed the an-

Glamorgan stalwarts Tom Cartwright and Don Shepherd, as well as more recent advice from Emburey, Croft has become a fine Test match bowler, although only three of his Test appearances have been against the top sides. As many point out, he has yet to be put under real pressure by someone like Mark Waugh, who tends to play spin well, and his greatest test of character may come in the next few Tests as Australia try to move mountains in order to get back

on an even footing.
To date, only his batting, so vital and assured with Glamorgan, has disappointed. It may be that his mental energies are totally devoted to his bowling. More likely, is that one or two

technical deficiencies are being much of Croft's spare time is found out. After all, the lower spent fishing in the wilder reorder always get to face the best bowlers. It is one of the few perks a bowler has.

A Welsh speaker, he hails from Hendy, a hotbed of Welsh nationalism, situated half-way between Swansea and Llanelli. When asked if the locals had any problems with him playing for the Saes (the English), Croft simply chuckles, claiming be passes it off as the equivalent of playing rugby union for the

Ironic or not, Croft's cricket made him a highly popular man, particularly in the Principality, where they are about to bestow the honour of making him a Bard of Wales. A distinction he will share with other sportsmen like Gareth Edwards, Icuan Evans and the Glamorgan batsman Alan

The ceremony, which entails wearing a long, green robe will take place at this year's National Eisteddfod. His bardic title will be Robert O'r Hendy. Robert Droellwr (Spinner) was apparently considered, although Robert the Karaoke King would apparently be the most accurate.

With a surname that has close associations with the land, it is not surprising to learn that

gions. Indeed, the day before England gathered at Old Trafford, he was busy catching an eight-pound trout. A bit of a change, he says, from his fruitless forays with Atherton in New Zealand, when the England captain caught all the fish. An imbalance that on one occasion saw the frustrated Croft tuck a seven-foot Mako shark

into his skipper's bed. Having never played cricket at school, he says he was lucky to have been brought up by parin one hand and a rugby ball in the other." But if his dreams of being scrum-half for Wales began to fade, his cricket, which began with the Swansea Cricket Club juniors, has not disappointed, and barring serious injury, he will surely break Jeff Jones's record of 15 Tests, as the most capped Welshman of all

He claims that the record has no bearing on his current aspirations, which Ashes aside, are more long term. "My ambition is to prove that off-spinners can play Test cricket and that there is a happy medium between keeping it tight and tak-ing wickets." It is a flame that can have no better keeper than the Bard O'r Hendy.

Sussex broaden Pigott's powers

Gres Wood

Sussex have reacted to their poor form this season by giving increased powers to their director of cricket, Tony Pigott.

Pigott, who is also chief executive, will be with the team at all games until the end of the sea-son, but he denied that he will have the final say on team selection and that the future of the coach, Desmond Haynes, is in doubt. He said that team selection would be carried out by the existing panel comprising Haynes, the captain Peter Moores and 2nd XI coach Chris Waller, as well as Pigott himself.

Pigott said his role would be "very much hands-on", adding: "It means Peter Moores can concentrate on captaincy and Desmond and Chris on exiching. There is no change in their positions and my involvement is

simply to help where I can."
For today's game against
Worcestershire at Arundel Sussex have called up Robin Martin-Jenkins, a 6ft 5in all-rounder and son of the cricket writer and broadcaster, Christopher.

Worcestershire have offered a six-week trial to the Rotterdani student Bas Zuiderent, who scored 99 for the Netherlands in a NatWest Trophy hirst-round tie at New Road last week.

The champions Leicester-shire are hiring industrial hot air driers to get their Grace Road pitch fit for the match against Yorkshire. Last week's game with Warwickshire was washed out without a hall bowled.

Yorkshire have named teenage seam bowler Ryan Sidebottom, son of the old Headingicy favourite Arnie, to make his

Championship debut.

Durham should be meeting Hampshire at Chester-le-Street today but the chances of play on the first day are already slim, according to the groundsman Tom Flintoft, Hampshire yesterday awarded their Australian opener Matthew Hayden his county cap.

The bottom club, Northamptonshire, play Kent at Maid-stone, while Surrey, coming off their first Championship win of the season, travel to Edgbaston to take on Warwickshire, who have to decide whether or not to pick wicketkeeper Keith Piper, who was banned for drug abuse from the Leicestershire

Mike Hendrick bas had his contract as Ireland coach extended for the next two years. The former England bowler guided Ireland to the semi-tinals of the ICC Trophy in Malaysia and to victory over Middlesex in the Benson and Hedges Cup this season.

The Surrey brothers, Adam and Ben Hollioake, have both been selected in an England squad to take part in the Hong Kong Sixes Tournament on 27 and 28 September. Adam is named as captain with Kent's Mark Ealham the only Test player in the seven-man squad. ENGLAND SQUAD (Hong Kong Stres, 27-28 September): A J Hotioake (Surrey, capt), B C Hotioake (Surrey), A D Brown (Surrey), D R Brown (Warwickstre). M A Entham (Kenti, G D Lloyd (Lancachire), M V Flem-

Schuemann made to struggle

Salling

STUART ALEXANDER

The triple Olympic gold medal-list Jochen Schuemann was struggling yesterday in the opening races of the Swedish Match Racing World Championships in Marstrand. With the French veteran

Mare Pajot in his crew, he failed to score a single win in five starts in an event which has attracted most of the world's top 10, with the notable exception of the 1996 champion, Russell Coutts.

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in five races despite having New Zealand's Murray Jones, with whom he worked so effectively at the America's Cup warm-up in Auckland, as tactician.

gold medallist, Denmark's Jesper Bank, and a second Dane. to the Australian Peter Gilmour, France's Thierry Peponnet and the local hero, Magnus Holmberg, to finish the day 2-3.

heading the lists at the end of British hopes lie with Chris the day, having completed six

SIMPLER.

Law, who scored only two wins races and won five of them. His only defeat was by Henriksen. and his scalps included Gilmour

Morten Henriksen, but having number of laps was increased

- with a Japanese America's Cup crew - Peponnet, Shucmann and Sten Mohr, the third Law beat another Olympic Dane at the party. In very shifty west to northwest winds, the course had constantly to be realigned and the

from two to three as the distance was shortened to try to avoid distortions. The smallest field since 1963, It was Holmberg who was seven nations with three-boat teams, will contest the nine-race Champagne Mumm Admiral's Cup series starting on 31 July. Defenders Italy meet Great Britain, America, Germany, Australia, New Zealand and Scandinavia in a mixture of six

> gence, Tony Buckingham's Easy Oars, and Tim Barrett's Mumm * THE INDEPENDENT INTERNATIONAL LIVE COMMENTARY 0891 881 485 COUNTY **ROUND UP**

> > 0891 525 075

short inshore, a short offshore

and a Channel Race, culmi-nating with the 605-mile Fast-net Race. The British team is

Graham Walker's 45ft Indul-

Bailey prepares for the real deal

Athletics

Donovan Bailey, the Olympic 100 metres champion, faces a serious test of his form tonight after the hype and huge pay packets of this season's showdowns with Michael Johnson and Linford Christie.

The Canadian will find out if he has the sharpness to defend his title at next month's World Championships in Athens when he takes on a high-class field at the Lausanne Grand Prix.

If the conditions are favourable, Bailey's world record of 9.84sec, set in Atlanta, could be in danger. His opponents are expected to include Namibia's Frankie Fredericks. the Olympic silver medallist, bronze medallist Ato Boldon of Trinidad, as well as Christie. Leroy Burrell, also in the field, set the previous world record on the fast Lausanne track. Bailey has been cashing in on

* THE INDEPENDENT RACING SERVICES 0891 261 + LIVE COMMENTARIES HENTER FOLKESTONE epsom (e) /ARMOUTH (E) ## 94 0891 261 970 Cath cost Sty per mireto. TLS, ptc, Screene 9 FC2A 49

his Atlanta success in the first part of the season. After his \$1m howdown with Johnson in Toronto he beat Christie in another 150m duel in Sheffield on

Bailey looked very sharp despite the cold and windy con-ditions in Sheffield. Afterwards he said: "It's not the money but the performance that counted and I was delighted with that."

Lausanne, one of the richest meetings on the circuit, also pays huge appearance fees to the big names, but the result of tonight's race should have more meaning in sporting terms than anything that has happened so far this season.

The meeting is also crucial for France's 200 and 400m Olympic champion, Marie-Jose Pérec who has been struggling with her form. Pérec, scheduled to run the 200m, has said she would pull out of the World Championships if she did not have a better race in Lausanne.

Smith's season in full bloom

Equestrianism

GENEVIEVE MURPHY reports from Stoneleigh

Robert Smith, who won a class in Aachen on Sunday, claimed another victory in yesterday's Martin Collins Jumping Com-petition, which was the first contest for Grade A horses at this year's Royal Show here.

James Fisher, the first of 16 into the jump-off, had given the others a serious target to chase with a swift clear round on Tiptoe. He had taken a shortcut into the fifth jump-off fence and it was evident that no one would overtake him without following the same route.

John Whitaker, winner of

the Grand Prix in Aachen on Virtual Village Welham, was riding with a sense of urgency when he took this short-cut on Barry Bug, only for the horse to run past the fence, incurring three faults. In the end Smith was the only one to beat Fisher's time, by 0.24scc.

Nick Skelton was in no burry when jumping a polished clear round on Virtual Village Zalza, whose confidence will have been boosted by this excercise which left him in sixth.

Skelton is preparing for a legal battle with Joe Haller, the Swiss former owner of Dollar Girl who claims the Briton owes him some of the prizemoney be won last year. In accordance with legal advice, Skelton declined to comment.

The victorious Mighty Blue has been a wonderfully game performer for Smith, who rode him to a joint victory in the puissance in Rome this year when jumping a height of 7ft 2in. You can put him in any class and he'll be competitive," Smith said of the 12-year-old grey.

Smith is enjoying an unex-pectedly successful season despite losing the brilliant young stallion Big Time, who died after an attack of colic. His new mount, For the Best, has "a fantastic jump" and could well become a top grand prix horse.

brother Steven for the Pet Plan Family Pair Relay. But this time Robert had a refusal while aiming for a fast time on For the Best, whereas John Whitaker went fast and faultless on Cowboy Magic to win in partnership with his daughter, Louise. Results, Digest, page 31

Smith later teamed up with his

TODAY'S NUMBER

The girls aged 5 to 18 play-ing organised football in the United States, according to figures published by the American Youth Soccer Or-ganization - 36 per cent of the total. The most female heavy age group is 15-16, with 42 per cent.

RACING RESULTS 4.00: 1. KALIANA (J. Reid) 7-2: 2. Macharik 5-1; 3. Mengaab 2-1; f. to. 6 ren. 2-1; f. to

CHEPSTOW

2.00: 1. CLIED UP (Mr A Bush) 8-1; 2.
Suble Mor 14-1: 3. Helios 4-1, 10 ren, 3-1
far Shining Earnple, 3V., 1V. (P Bush, Weishpool. Tota: £9.40; £1.80, £3.20, £1.30, Dr.
£56.80, CSP: £59.60. Tricas: £469.13, Tric.
£69.50. CHEPSTOW

£89.50, 230: 1. BOLLERO (P Fessey) 5-2; 2. War-rlor King 13-2; 3. Farewell My Love 11-10 (av. 7 rag. 4, nk. (J Berry, Cockerham), Totac £3.60; £1.90, £2.50. DF: £9.60. CSF:

Inc: £85.10, 3.30; I. KING DARRUS (Dane O'Nes) 9-4 g lay; 2, Persian Forbune 9-2; 3, Edine's Cift. 9-4 j; fav. 7 ran. 2, 6, (R Hannon, East Everleigh). Total: £1.70, £2.40, DF; £6.40, CSF; £11.84. Trio: £85.10.

2.45: 1. FAST FRANC () Weever) 6-4 fav.
2. Ribble Assembly 4-1; 3. Ellember 16-1.
9 ran. 2½. ½. (S Williams, Novemarket), Totas:
25.50; £1.10, £1.20, £2.60. DF: £3.10. CSF.
£5.53. Troc £23.40.
3.15: 1. SOUPENFICIAL (Vim Timiser) 9-1;
2. Stephassous Rocket 9-2 ft fav. 3.
Leading Princess 9-2 ft fav. 11, ran. 1, ½.
(N Timiser, Methon). Totas: £9.80; £2.90,
£1.30, £2.30. DF: £17.30. CSF: £44.88. Inc:
£30.30.

3.45: 1. CANADIAN FANTASY (J Wea-ver 7-2: 2. Wastern General 7-1: 3. Sar-metian 3-1. 9 rm. 11-4 fav Principal Boy (5th), Sh-hd, V. IM Johnston, Middleham), Total: £4.20; £2.00, £2.40, £1.40, DF; £10.90, CSF; £24.12, Treast: £72.63, Tree

4.15: 1. MONACO GOLD (D Winght) 2-1 for, 2. Miami Moon 12-1; 3. Philipem 9-2. 9 ras. 1%, 4. Mrs M Reveley, Saithum), Tota: 53.00: £1.10, £2.60, £1.50. DF: £30.60. CSF: £24.70. Tric: £42.10.

4.45: 1. WILDMOOR (7 Williams) 3-1; 2. Belle Bijos 12-1: 3. Quezon (Sty 11-10 fav. 6 ran. Y., 5. (J'Bethell, Modelenm). Tote: £3.70: £1.30, £2.50. DF: £8.70. CSF:

Paul Cole's two-year-old Evening World was a close third in the Prix de la Croix des Veneurs over seven furlongs at Chantilly yesterday. Richard Quinn's mount was touched off by a short-neck and a short-head by Andoya and

have both been declared for the German Derby at Hamburg on

Place & 253 (1) FROB IS ACUS IN HAMILTON

2.15: 1, ANOTHER NIGHTMARE (MIS C WHEN'S) 6-1; 2. Pallium 15-2; 3. Tropical Beach 7-2. 9 Inn. 3-1 fav Nid Oy (5th). 1½, 1½, 1R McNeller, Learnagew, Toes: £5-30; £1.70, £2.80, £1.10, OF: £22.20, CSF. £44.89, Treast: £164.03, Tric; £18.40. حكذا من الاعل

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Pulling your weight can inflict a harsh penalty, reports **Greg Wood**

A jittery filly almost killed Walter Swinburn at Sha Tin 18 months ago, but it was not enough to finish his career in the saddle. Now, though, it seems that a far more mundane problem will ensure that one of the most talented and popular jockeys of recent years has ridden his last winner.

It was in late April that Swinburn announced he was taking a "sabbatical" from race-riding to confront persistent prob-lems with his weight, a reminder that the eternal conflict between jockeys and the scales does not spare the successful. And while he, with three Derbys, an Arc and two dozen other Group One winners to his name, has already accumulated enough memories and money to keep him comfortable in retirement, for many others, the struggle goes on.
It is at its most bitter for the

journeymen, who rely on riding fees for their living, rather than a share of the purses from a handful of winners. For them, the relationship between pounds of body weight and pounds in the bank can be painfully direct. They are men like Richard Perham, whose natural weight is about nine stone but who can ride at 8st 4lb, which means, as he points out, that "I'll be about 8st 2lb stripped". Weight is never far from Per-

ham's thoughts. "The first thing I think about when I wake up in the morning is what sort of weight I'm going to be, and what I'll be the following day," he says. "If I have a light ride coming up. I'm constantly thinking about it. It's not an easy life. I try to have a bowl of bran flakes in the morning to keep the system going, and I might have some fruit on the way to the races and pick at a bit of meat at lunchtime. Then in the evening there'll be something sensible, like a bit of chicken or

fish with salad." Such austerity is almost letes, but Perham believes his Generally every jockey tries to do lighter than they really that if they can take off another pound or two, it might lead to an extra winner, a better income. Everybody craves success and wants to win."

Inevitably, the effects of this constant vigilance and denial are iar part of almost every jockey's jogging, going to the gym."



Burden of proof: Seb Sanders is checked on the scales before going to mount up at Brighton racecourse

going without, it makes you nig-gly, you bite at things you prob-ably shouldn't do," Perham says. "It doesn't help-your moods at all. People say that jockeys have a hard life, but I think that their wives have a

harder time." Michael Caulfield, secretary unique among professional ath- of the Jockeys' Association, admits that "if's a huge mental regime is typical of all but a for-tunate handful of his colleagues. thing, it really affects their do-mestic life. The things which mestic life. The things which break me most in my job are the injuries, and the sight of jockshould because everybody feels evs wasting day in, day out. I sponge. You'll often hear peonever approach a jockey who's ple say they've taken 21b off and wasting, and when you see them put 3lb on. Two years ago I come out of the sauna boiling their heads off, you think, that's no sort of life."

The sauna has been a famil-

not simply physical, but mental life for many years, but it is at and emotional too. "If you are best a short-term answer to Dr Michael Turner, the Jockey weight problems. "All you're doing is dehydrating yourself," Perham says, "and the first thing that happens when you drink anything, whether it's wa-ter or tea, is that it goes straight ing room. "We've always been

This will be welcome news to ed to the amount of exercise you or Michael Turner, the Jockey take. The physical exercise jock-Club's chief medical advisor, who is keen to stamp out some of the traditional, but often downright unhealthy, practices

RICHARD PERHAM'S DAILY DIET Breakfast: "A bowl of bran flakes and some fruit" Lunch: "I pick at a bit of meat"

Dinner: "A bit of chicken, or fish with salad"

back into your body like it's a concerned, which is why would sauna every day, but now it's occasional, when I need it. A lot of jockeys are now doing more exercise, walking.

have a dietician lecturing every intake of apprentices at the rid-ing school," he says. "It's a question of education from the bottom upwards. The only reason you need to eat very little is if you haven't got your weight under control, and that's relat-

eys get on horseback each day is actually very small, maybe 30 or 40 minutes a day. They need

them to eat enough food." Turner believes that such desperate remedies as diuretics (the "pee pills" beloved of generations of jockeys) or a finger down the throat are now on the wane. "All the older jockeys have tried diuretics or laxatives. and they tend to try it once and give it up," he ssys. These drugs will keep pushing their weight are not, at present, on the as low as it can go, and then a Club's list of banned substances, little further. Punters considbut "every time we do a urine ering Swinburn's disappeartest we test for diuretics, and we ance from the weighing room don't find many, whereas the when he should be in his prime

Today's meeting at Redcar has been abandoned after recent

heavy rain made the course un-

John Gundill, the clerk of the

course, was scheduled to hold

an inspection for 5pm yesterday

to determine whether the card

But, before the inspection

to run, cycle and swim to enable

limia, but there's much evidence of it happening here." Perham agrees, but only to a point. "A lot of people have toved with that idea and find it

Photograph: Robert Hallam

pretty unpleasant," he says. But there are a couple who do it on a daily basis, and there's one jockey who has to go to Harley Street once or twice a year to have his stomach relined. That can't be a whole lot of fun, but these are the extremes that people will go to."

One way or another, jockeys French have huge numbers, and have just added them to is mad, but there is an alternatheir banned list. In America tive explanation. Maybe it was they have problems with bu- sanity that prevailed.

Rain-hit Yarmouth was yes-

terday confident that this week's

two-day meeting will beat the

"The going is soft but there should be no problem at all,"

said groundsman Graham Waitt. "We had 15.8mm of rain

yesterday and 34.2mm on Fri-

day but even if there is more

rain there will be no problem.

"The forecast is for showers

HYPERION 6.20 Lucky Double 6.50 Elbacha 7.50 Artic Courier 8.20 Heart Full Of Soul 7.20 Zaima (nb) GOING: Soft (Good to Soft in picres.) GOING: Soft (Good to Soft in picres.) STALLS: 6' - conside. Until - centre, transactor - mode. DEAW ADVANTAGES: Low best for of 8-71 Leg-hand course, aleary and undiding: E Rerecourse is south of town - 1' indies from the centre of London. Three rail states serve the course. Spoon (Insurant from A bettern and Waterhar) and the monte Epone Downs (Victoria) and Thatenham Corner (I harmed 1 hos and Victoria) and the monte Epone Downs (Victoria) and Thatenham Corner (I harmed 1 hos and Victoria). Apartis Spon. Queens Stand \$10 (10 to 25-y-car-olds \$127: isranded and Problem & \$10 (Studenta \$5%). Longdale Enclosure \$1' (acrompanied upder 1 bis free all contentures). CAR PARKE FORE LEADING TRAINERS WITH RUNNERS: E Hannon - 15 wangers from 120 vances; gives a success ratio of \$11.5% and a leve to a \$1 level clabe of \$16 to!; R Abridante - 11 wanters, 30 runners, \$13.0%, \$13.93. Junipp. 18 unners, 40 runners, \$12.7%, \$12.55. Level Huntingson - 7 winners, \$22 runners, \$24.0%, \$5.2.2%. **LEADING JOCKETS: Pat Eddery - 20 wine, [10] Indres. \$19.6, \$17.2%; L Dettort - 14 wine, \$8 rules, \$15.9%, \$5.11.3% Roberts - 11 wine, \$50 rides, \$20.0%, \$438.20. LINERERS Of THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Nane, LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Energy Kingdom (7.20) sext \$21 miles by M Brittain from Warthal, North Yorksher; Bahadita (6.20) & Goldmardelia (7.20) sext \$21 miles by M Brittain from Warthal, North Yorksher; Bahadita (6.20) & Goldmardelia (7.20) sext \$21 miles by M Brittain from Warthal, North Yorksher; Bahadita (6.20) & Goldmardelia (7.20) sext \$21 miles by M Brittain from Warthal, North Yorksher; Bahadita (6.20) & Goldmardelia (7.20) sext \$21 miles by M Brittain from Warthal, North Yorksher; Bahadita (6.20) & Goldmardelia (7.20) sext \$21 miles by M Brittain from Warthal, North Yorksher; Bahadita (6.20) & Goldmardelia (7.20) sext \$21 miles by M Brittain from Warthal, North Yorksher; Bahadita (6.20) & Goldmardelia (7.20) sext \$21 miles by M Brittain from Warthal, North Yorksher; Bahadita (6.20) & Go 8.50 Plaisir D'Amour

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ļ	2		ROCK FALCON (12) (D) (E Restel) Lady Hernes 499.		
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	11	500011	TEA PARTY (12) (D) (A Richards) K Cummistrom-Brown	n 4 7 13 <u></u>	Dayer (3) 8 (
	l l		_ 11 decision _		

BETTING: 6-4 Grey Kingdon, 5-1 Zahan, 7-1 Tear Party, 10-1 Chickewicks, Linkon Lad, 12-2 Peng-amon, Rivers Magic, 14-1 Rock Felson, 25-1 Desply Valle, Gell Liberty, 33-1 Papita 1996: Chickewick 5 9 7 T Spake 10-1 (8 Paling) dram (2) 9 ran FORM GUIDE

The handicapper has raised the sugnoving TEA PARTY 2to for a narrow win at Goodwood on good to soft ground. An aptitude for Goodwood is a good sign that Epsont's undulations will suit, and this Wolverhampton all-weather winner is getting weight all round. That's even more of an advantage when the going gets rough. Grey Mingdom goes on any ground and ran a blander in heavy ground at Newcastle last Saturday, when beaten a neck and a head by Cretan Gift and Return Of Arms. That was a particularly good effort because Grey Kingdom was the only one of the principals drawn high. That was over sa furlongs and the doubt is whether ha'll get home so well over sowen on this ground. Plus, this is his tenth race since April and last Saturday's was as rough as contest as he has had. The his tenth race since April and lest Saturday's was as lough as contest as he has had. The grey can race on the same handicap mark, however, and if those reservations prove unfounded, he could win with his head in his chest. Zalima was hompered twice in a rough race won by Cosmic Prince over this course and distance last time. Previously a short head numer-up to Captain Collins at Goodwood, Zalma is an unknown quantity in the must but is unifiely to be finendless. On the lest two occasions that course and distance winner Childrandicia has encountered soft ground, he has nut adequately. On the other hand he does not have a great record when set to carry big weights, notwithstanding a win with 10st 12th in a novice hurdle, and Pengamoon has an 18th pull for just over the lengths on their running at Newmarket's Craven meeting.

Selection: TEA PARTY

i		7.50	ALLEED DUNBAR HANDICAP (CLASS D) £6,000 SKY added 1m 4f
1	1	20-304	ARTIC COURSER (25) (CD) (Mr A D Hardy) D Cosgove 6 10 0
	2	003003	WAKEEL (USA) (6) (8F) (Mrs J M A Churstori S Dow 595 S Sanders 3
Į	3	30-125	BUSTANIA (20) (A) Dessk Crowson) J Dunlop 3 9 1
Ì	4	300-20	TAPPETO (48) (45) David Blackburry H Cardy 5 9 0
	5	-21123	LITTLE ACCIENT (20) (D) (Mr Alepdair Sampson) 5 C Wilhams, 3 9 0
1	6	0320-1	BOISIN CLOVER (32) (D) (The Clockhouse Press Ltd) R Rove 6 8 13
ı	7	102030	MARADI (12) (D) (Nas Daphne Viggour) M Sel 388
ı	8	-00026	STATIALNOX (7) (CD) (Ms M E Sade) D Esson 988T Quian 28
ı	9	24-313	RHAPSODY BY WHEEE (19) Oiles Christine Stevenson's M. Janes, 3.8.7
ı			- 9 declared -
	-		walkers of the control of the contro

BETTING: 7-2 Walked, 9-2 Rimpsody in William, 5-1 Rotatella, 7-1 Little Acom, 8-1 Rotate Clover, Blancid, 19-1 Arctile Courier, Tappeto, 12-1 Statigack
1996: Anc Course 5 9 6 J Stack (3) 9-1 (D Cospovel draws (7) 11 mm
FORMI GAILDE
STATAMCK is a course and distance winner with the ability to handle the mud. He ran doubt here in straight conditions severa days ago and although never near to challenge and besten 14 lengths by Ancient, Quest (who did lettle for the form at Windsor on Nondon) Statigack has a chance nevertheless. You can't touch him with the wisp as Ray Coctmano discovered on his penulturrate run when Statigack was second of 1.7 to Blauch at Windsor off a 9th lagner mark than today's – but for being shown the stack, he might have won. Walked stated joint favourist in bed ground at Salaboury last week and did will to be bedden just but her gifts after reaning up in the staits but just week and did will to be bedden just be bedden or Khapesody in William followed a win in very modest company over seven furforigs at Brighton with a better effort in deleat bohard the smart fina Ruffo at Coothood over a mile and two furfors. Better less than three lengths ofter being nampered in the closing stages, he can race off the same mark. Reabants will be backed because he faeled to obtain a clear run at Goodhood last time betterd Cro's Pearl, servor pasced at Royal Assort, but that form won't nothing special and he best offorms industrial.

	placed at Royal Ascot, but that form wasn't nothing special and his best offorts insi his Nottingham win have been on fast ground. Selection: STATA		
	8	20	ALAN COWING RETIREMENT CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS E) £4,025 added 3YO 1m 114yds
i	1	1-004	DON SEBASTIAN (4) (D) (Normation Windows 9.3
į	2	100520	EFFERVESCENCE (12) (BF) (Cold Buster Syndicate (2)) R Harrion 9.2 Pat Entarry 7
ł	3	2103-0	HEART FULL OF SOUL (46) (Mr Christopher Weight) P Cale 9 2 1 Quina 8 B
l	4	50 632	MPNLA (23) (Nrs C A Scott) W G M Turret 9 2
į	5	6	PENERALTY (12) (AV) VY Bogel W Haggs 9 2 5 Sendors 4
ł	6	00-00	YANASAMOUMO (16) (Mes: Heather Gregory) G Lews 8 11
1	7	000-60	BOBBITT (35) (Air William McCregor) W. Janes 8 4
١	8	005453	MESS BARCE (DIEA (4) (Mr M) Polytose) M Polytose 8 2
ı	1 =		PARTIES AND

9 SECURIAL OF A PROPERTY OF SOLUTION STATES SOLUTION SOLU

If DON SEBASTIAN runs up to the form of his fourth to Mara River at Both on Saturday, he can provide the Willie Hoggas yard with a much nected with The ground mety be sont or than has week, but not necessary more so than it was when Don Sobastian run leftery Anothernet to a neck at Concepter last Nevember. Stablemage Peribertary pulled too hert for its own good at Ripon last match but like most goldings, could improve for a first and of the season and he cannot be discounted, trapala also has a bit of form in the must and grip up to seatch last time out, while New Fall Of Soul run up to his best from with a close and unlucky-in-numing than to Noise Razo on Newtony in the must last October. Miles Barcellona, Desten as tergits in the clother at Newmerket on Smurday, looked if at ease in the mud and may have more on her state here. Selection: DON SEBASTIAN

8.50 CHANTELY HANDICAP (CLASS D) £5,000 added to stakes 6!

1990, Gorgen Hourd (LEVA & 9 4) pare to result of 72 the (LEVA RECENSY) desired (7) but have FORM GLUDE:

A popular outsider in the Workingham, BOLD EPFORT has run consistently badly at Ascorbut gets his chance here off a 510 tower mark. On his penultimate run his best Can Born but gets his charice here off a 5th tower mask, On his perultimate run his best Can Both Born by two lengths in an exceptionally competition so turiongs hear on Woherhamp-ton's all-weather. His last two wins have been with big weights and the must will suit the topweight well. William Dulle handled the track well enough back in April and last time out studied home by the lengths in soft graund at Windsor under 9a 12th. Plaists D'Amour has been placed at Newmarket and Ascot on his last two starts. He appeared to cope with softer ground at the latter pourse, but nother of those races may have been as com-petitive as they first appeared. Course and destance werker Golden Pound was besten only three lengths in testing ground at Salesbury last week. Selection: BOLD EFFORT

Pilsudski backed to Eclipse Bosra

Pilsudski was yesterday well Guineas and Champion Stakes the race," trainer Henry Cecil simple question of whether to backed for Saturday's Coral winner who beat Alhaarth by reported. Eclipse Stakes at Sandown. The sponsors cut the price of last year's Breeders' Cup Turf winner, who was runner up to Predappio in the Hardwicke Stakes at Royal Ascot last time

out, to 3-1 from 4-1. "There has been a significant gamble and we have laid Pilsudski to lose around £50,000," Coral spokesman Simon Clare said. "There was nothing all morning then suddenly they all came on at 1.45."

YARMOUTH

HYPERION 6.35 Ice Age 7.05 Fly High 7.35 VENI VIDI VICI (nap) 8.05 Althib 8.35 Purist 9.05 Contrarie

DRAW ADVANTAGE: High for 31 to 1m. none.

II Leil-hand course, level and fair.

Course is N of town on Ai 19. Yarmouth station 1m. ADMISSTORY: Chib 512: Tatterstile 58.56; Family and course enclosure
54.50. CAR PARKS 51.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Unshaken (visured) (7.35).

WINNERS IN LAST SEVEN DATS: None.

LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Songabeet (6.35) sera 379 miles
by M Saundens from Haydon, Somerset.

6.35 APPRENTICE LIMITED STAKES (CLASS G) £3,000 added 5f 43yds

STALLS: Straight - for side; remainder - inside.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: High for 5f to 1m. None.

eight lengths in the Prince of Wales's Stakes at the Royal meeting last month, remains the RICHARD EDMONDSON

NAP: May King Mayhem (Folkestone 4.30) NB: Bina Gardens (Yarmouth 8.35)

in a gallop yesterday.

"She worked beautifully this

4-6 favourite, having delighted

Godolphin put the final piece in the Eclipse jigsaw yesterday morning by announcing Allied Forces a definite runner.

Sheikh Mohammed's organisation will bid to lift the Group One prize for the third year running with Royal Ascot's Queen Anne Stakes winner, whose participation was described as no more than "likely" after the

five-day declarations. Godolphin's racing manager Simon Crisford said: "I had to Bosra Sham, the 1996 1,000 morning and she is on course for talk to the owners, and it was a

J Reds 4 B

7.05 SELLING STAKES (CLASS G) SKY

9 deciared -BETTING: 5-2 Last Chance, 9-2 Feel A Lice, 5-1 Fly High, 21-2 Distinctive Dream, 6-1 Windhorn, 7-1 Skiney The Kidney, 14-1 Fontcandetin, Jurgo-

7.35 EASTERN DAILY PRESS HCAP SKY

335-55 PRIME LIGHT (21) G Wegg 4 10 D. G Milligho (5) 18
15-05 PRIME LIGHT (21) F Aristone 3 9 8 M Hall 12 9
62 030 DOC RYANTS (58) M Right 3 9 8 M Bairt (5) 9
034-00 KALTING (153) (39) (Currior 3 9 8 M Defind 5)
55000

060413 FEEL A LINE (9) (D) B Machan 9.5 050540 DISTINCTIVE DREAM (4) Y, hory 9.0 ...

Allied Forces, 14-1 with Coral, is outsider of the quintet with the sponsors to emulate

1995 and 1996 winner Halling. He will be ridden by Frankie Dettori, leaving the way clear for Willie Ryan to renew his partnership with Benny The Dip. The Derby winner's odds were pushed out from 9-2 to 5-1 by Coral who also eased Sasuru's price to 10-1 from 8-1.

Coral betting: 4-6 Bosra Sharn, 3-1 Plaud-ski (4-1), 5-1 Berny The Dip (9-2), 10-1 Sasu-ru (8-1), 14-1 Aliad Forces BETTING: 7-4 Shining Clossi, 5-2 Sougahast, 4-1 ice Age, 5-1 Royal Black-bird, 14-1 Bear To Dance, 20-1 Sang D'Astilhes

– 10 catazera – BETTING: 100-30 Veni Well Woi, 5-1 Mr Rough, 6-1 Chingachgnok, 13-2 Prime Light, 8-1 Kulkish, 10-1 Doc Ryen's, Karinska, Silk St John, 12-1 Unshaken, 16-1 Polish Rhythm

raceable.

was due to take place, he reported: "The course is unfit to race due to persistent rain which has caused waterlog-

could go ahead.

this afternoon and evening but the ground will take that. Results, page 28

Redcar abandoned

due to waterlogging

weather.

1986: 2-1 Purist, 3-1 Blan Barders, 5-1 Kaydyah, 11-2 Udire, 8-1 La usekal, 14-1 Aboo Ham, Crystal Hills, Divinity, 25-1 Yak Alfaraj, 33-1 soff, Stackbrook, 68-1 Crosspton Lights 9.05 E.D.P. BEST FOR CLASSIFIEDS HANDICAP (CLASS D) £6,000 added 1m 6f 17yds 201-66 CHATHAM ISLAND (21) (CD) C Britain 9 9 10 ... I. Derton 13 10 46202 SHAM HUNTER (S) D Cosgone 4 9 8 ... G Carter 4 - 22401 CHARDANDOD JACK (27) (CD) 1 Campbed 4 9 5 ... R Price 3 4-0333 SP 17 WORL (7) M Soute 3 90 ... Bald 7 0 - 3062 FRESICH MEST (S) S Dow 3 6 8 B Doyle 5 Doyle 5 ... A Doyle 5 HETTING: 4-5 Alinks, 4-1 Tecpos, 13-2 Greenkinder, 8-1 Word Venture, 12-1 Fee Warrior, 14-1 Narahili Lad 1-0003 SUPREME SOUND (12) P Hams, 3 & 7. 0310 - BELLRO (2218 M Tompins 5 8 2 D Bigs 3 560-00 CHILDREN'S CHOICE (48) (CD) W Muson 6 8 2 A Nickiner 10 200006 AFRICAN SIRI (5) M Cropmin 4 7 10 M Select (3) 4 4:200 COMPRASE (25) M Ryan 4 7 10 M Select (3) 8 - 11 declared -8.35 E.D.P. WHAT'S ON mouse. (CLASS D) £4,900 added 1m 3f 101yds

um weight: 7st 10th. True handscap weights: African Sun 7st Sitr. Con Trafe 75 St. Compass Point, 9-2 Franch Mist, 6-1 Swins Hunter, 13-2 Spy SETTINE: 4-1 Contrade, 8-1 Chattern Island, Charmenod Jack, 10-1 Supreme Spmd, 12-1 Belirol, 18-1 African Sun, 20-1 Children's Chaice

Asing 75 50.

BETINK: 9-2 Sion Forum, 5-1 May (flog Mayben, 5-1 State, Top Shelf, 12-2 Nething Doing, 8-1 Brundgiler, Toula. 20-1 Sodier's Binns, 12-1 Duncounte Half, 16-1 Certain Magle, 20-1 Foundated, Happy Medium, 33-1 Juding

5.00 TENTERDEN HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,300 added 1m 1f 149yds

POLKESTONE

2.30 Campari 3.00 Castel Rosselo 3.30 Jack-N-Jily 4.00 Sloowitz 4.30 May King Mayhem 5.00 What A Puss

(1) (1) (1) (1) (1) (1) (1) (1) (1) (1)	LLS: Straight = Mande said: round course — outside. IM ADVANTAGE: Low for 1/2 & 61, high for 77 to 127, ight-hand, unchalating course with a run-in of one furious, distributed, unchalating course is den W of town off A-20. Westenhauser station (see from London, Charung Cross) adjoins rourse. ADMISSION market-like free! CAR PARE: Free. IMERED FIRST TIME: Flying Esprit (4.00), Foxford La (ERED FIRST TIME: Flying Esprit (4.00), Foxford
_	TAKE IT AS

2 20	ROMNEY MARSH MAIDEN STATES (OCC.) D) £4,650 added 2YO filies 6f 189yds	
2.00	D) Edition Comments S Whiteouth	١7
006	AFTER DOWN (25) LLS P DURBER & LT	8
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	FARABOS AI SEPERATUR 11	: 9
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	10000	12
3	LATTIN RECOLS (USA) 1917	ш
	LETTLE EMILY C BUILDING 13	4
4	NECT ROLLED (11) M Bed S 11M Featon	

3.00 WOODCHURCH HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,300 added 6f 189yds

3.30 HAMSTREET SELLING STAKES (CLASS G) 52,875 added 270 51 O EASTWELL MENISTRES (16) R Curis 8 11 ______ | Love 1 O BRADBURY PALLS (16) D Congree 8 6 ______ | Quint 2 623232 | LACK-H-JILLY (11) | 5 Moore 8 6 ______ | Lit Henry (3) 3

O VERDANT EXPRESS (2) W G M Turner 8 5 D Sweeney (5) 4 - 4 declared -BETTING: 4-6 Jack N-RBy, 2-1 Vention: Express, 7-1 Bradbury Fells, 20-1

8.05 E.D.P. MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £4,750 added 2Y0 6f 3yds

YAUS VENTURE S Woods 9 0... Teepee W Janes 8 9......

4.00 LEAS HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,025 added 3YO 1m 7f 92yds | Color | Colo

4.30 SHADDOXHURST HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,300 added 1m 4f

the state of the same of the s

ADDICE DESIRE (15) S C Williams 4 10 0.

- 15 declared -



Martina Hingis, the No 1 seed from Switzerland, powers a backhand during her straight-sets victory over Sabine Appelmans, of Belgium

American eagle comes under threat

No sooner have we the What's gone wrong with British tennis stories than another nation is going through a bout

of worried introspection. This may not have you weeping into your cereal this morning but the Americans are suffering.

Take a look at the Wimble-

don singles and you can see why. There is just one American left, a certain Pete Sampras. And while it would not exactly be a surprise if he was lifting the Renshaw Cup for the fourth time in five years on Sunday, it would merely camouflage an ail-

The statistics tell the story of the flagging Stars and Stripes. In 1985, there were 32 American men in Wimbledon's second round, this year just six made it, three fewer than the previous low in the open era. The women's cupboard is bare. Take away Martina Navratilova, a Czech who became a naturalised American, and the last one to win Wimbledon was Chris Evert in 1981. Old glory, indeed.

"Tennis doesn't seem to be exciting too many fans in the United States," Lindsay Davenport, the American fifth seed who flopped in the second round, said. "People aren't playing the sport and they're not watching it right now too much, either. What do you do to change that? I don't know.

"Most of the players that have come up through the States in the past have been ilies. Something has to be done to help the people who don't have the money.

Which, according to people who follow the game, is precisely the problem. Ask me what's wrong with American tennis," Hubert Misell, of Florida's St Petersburg Times, said, "and I'll give you a two-word answer: Michael Jordan. Kids want to play basketball, baseball or American football. Tennis comes a long way down.

Art Spander, of the Oakland as they'd put it, playing the game at top level. If anything it's golf they are being attracted to, thanks to Tiger Woods.

"The system does not help.

Guy Hodgson on the worrying lack of top-flight player material coming through from the United States

In basketball, Jordan is talking Gimelstob, who is 117 in the to the media 82 times a year. which projects the sport. I'm told Pete Sampras is a great guy but you can't get near him to find out.

Admittedly, the American impact on Wimbledon 1997 has been diluted by injuries to Tribune, added: "Most of our top sportsmen these days are and MaliVai Washington but black and they see no brothers, even if they were here, they could not bridge the generation gap that is worrying US tennis. None of their men in the top 100 is under 24 and apart from the 20-year-old, 6ft 5in, Justin "They turned a lot of people

world, the future looks barren. Among the juniors, they have just three boys in the top 50. 19th-ranked Rudolf Rake the highest. In the junior boys' doubles, there is not one American in the top 50. Britain has

So where have the people who flocked to see John McEnroe and Jimmy Connors gone? The impact of the charismatic but brattish duo had a twinedged impact. They brought people in to watch tennis,"

them weren't real fans. As on his left knee, feeling unwell, soon as McEnroe and Connors Given the way Greg Rusedski had gone they were lost to the

off, 100. The stomping around and the anger had a lot of people looking elsewhere for their sport." You can only speculate how many of the deterred came from the American middle-classes, the natural constituency for budding tennis players.

Richey Reneberg could have embodied the American problems yesterday. A distinguished doubles player, the 31-year-old defeated only his fourth seed in Grand Slam singles when he ousted Carlos Moya in the second round. He arrived on No Spander said, "but a lot of I Court wearing a tatty bandage

Given the way Greg Rusedski was banging the ball past him, he could have been suffering from shell shock.

Not once did he have a break point against Rusedski. not once did he look likely to progess to the quarter-finals. The shock would have been the American beating the Brit; the world has gone upside

"I don't know that embarrassment is the right word," Reneberg said, "but there's definitely a concern among American players and among a lot of people at the USTA [United States Tennis Association]. There are not a lot of good

people coming up.
"There's a bit of a drought coming once Sampras and Agassi and these guys finish. It's not the next year or two people are worried about, it's five or six years down the line." Five years back there were three American men's semi-finalists, this time there will be a maximum

US, as in useless, hardly sits well with a country that used to dominate the sport and a special committee chaired by the former USTA president Bob Cookson is investigating all aspects of American player development and is due to report before the US Open.

One fact ought to give the USTA nightmares. Britain, tennis weaklings for decades, got four men to the third round at Wimbledon. The United States managed three.

Men's over-35 doubles

Round-robin first round

Men's over-45 doubles

J Dune (GB) and A E Smith (US) bt R Casals (US) and B Stove (Neth) 6-2 6-2

L Charles and A Hobbs (GB) bt H Gourley and G Reid (Aus) 6-4 6-4

First round D Beicher (GB) bt R Jegede (Nigena) 6-3

R Nrs (Rom) bt J Trouman (GB) 6-1 2-6

Amola (Pol) bt O Levant (Fr) 7-5 7-5

L Home (Per)u bt T Dent (US) 6-2 6-3 F Conzalez (Chile) bt N Overholser (US) 6-4

M Groimus (Slovak) bt I Beros (Croa) 3-6

S Dickson (GB) bt J Duenas (Dom) 6-4

M Zewar (Eg) bt A Dulko (Arg) 3-6 6-3 6-4

K Ziv (Isr) bt A Derapasko (Rus) 7-6 6-4

A Sebova (Slovak) bt S Turner (GB) 7-5

A Graham (Aus) bt B Mouhtassine (Mor) 7-6 7-6

Boys' singles

Girls' singles

Photograph: David Ashdown YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Court circular

Historic moment for Basuki

tickets, a little piece of history was being made.

Yayuk Basuki's 6-0, 7-6 fourth round win over Patricia Hy-Boulais of Canada marked the first time that an Indonesian player has ever reached the quarter-finals of the women's singles event at Wimbledon.

Football is the most popular sport in Indonesia and the number of ranked players reflect this bias. Basuki is one of only nine female players to hold a world ranking and while she en-joys being the world No 26, her earest national rival is a mas-

sive 350 places behind her. A spokesman from the indonesian High Commission said

Yesterday, out on Court that although an industrian used to be the Asian rise No 1. he could not bring for mind even purchased their ground a professional Indonesian player currently competing in the men's game. Basuki, from Jakarta, said of

her win: "For me, this is something special. Hopefully my country is proud of me." To put Yayuk's mind at rest.

the High Commission has confirmed that: The Indonesian people are very proud of Yayuk's echievement. It is very hard to compete in Wimbledon today. but we are not too surprised by her success because she often beats top-ranked players."

If Yayuk continues winning, Indonesian fans will probably be able to watch her live on TV presumably as long as it doesn't clash with a football match.



Nicolas Kiefer, the 19-year-old German, goes flat out to beat Yevgeny Kafelnikov yesterday

Oh I say, Vijay

Vijay Amritraj was always a bit of a smoothie - he was the perfect urbane match for Roger Moore in Octopussy in 1983 - so it's not surprising that he is a fer-vent admirer of the late Dan

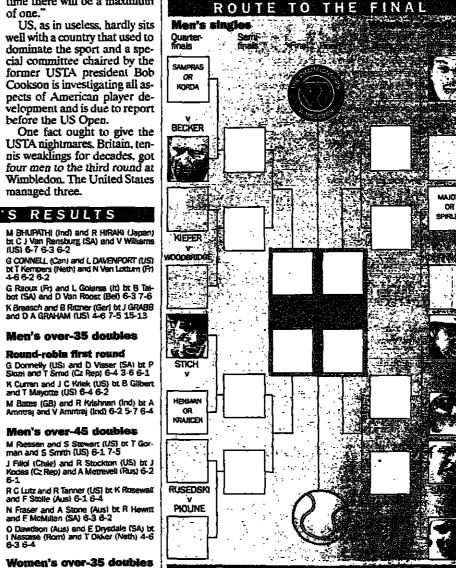
Amritraj, the former Indian Davis Cup player who graced many a Wimbledon and is now a television commentator himself, could not have paid The Voice of Tennis a bigger compliment than by copying his

The perenially smiling Indian, who used to take opponents winners, says: "I always thought



Dan was easily the best television commentator. He had this endearing habit of saying 'Oh, I say' when something spectacular happened. It summed up a great shot far better than someone going on and on about it.

"So now I'm an 'Oh, I say' not mind."



13 The games Aranba Sanchez Vicario has lost in her four resches to date matches to date

3 The double faults Greg Rusedski serves in his match against Richey Reneberg 175 The places Britain's Karen Cross is expected to climb in the rankings after her excellent

Tuesday 1635 The time play was suspended when the rain clouds opened again on Tuesday 1887 The year Wimbledor youngest singles champid Lottle Dod; won the ladiests gles competition.

TODAY'S WEATHER

Game set and watch. ROLEX

OFFICIAL TIMERREPFR TO THE CHAMPIONSHIPS, WIMBLEDOW

Richey Reneberg (right) troops off after defeat by Britain's Greg Rusedski yesterday from at least middle-class fam-Jensens' disappearing act

The colourful doubles act that is the brothers Jensen, Murphy and Luke, arrived at Wimbledon this year with the firm intention of staying a while.

With Murphy's disappearing act a couple of years a blot on the Americans copybook - he "went fishing" without telling his mother, brother or doublespartner, Brenda Schultz-Me-Carthy - they were keen to make a more lasting impression on Monday.

However, their stay lasted little more than two hours before losing in the first round to the seventh-seeded Australians Mark Philippoussis and Pat Rafter. 4-6, 6-3, 6-4. From the moment the dou-

bles teams walked on the court. it was obvious who the crowd favoured. Not the Americans. Instead, hundreds of teenage girls in every corner of the

ing Philippoussis' service in the fifth game.

The Jensens were notably courteous with the ball-boys. saying "thanks, dude" after every ball they received.

Luke, who is ambidextrous. often switched hands in the middle of a service game. At set point in the first set, the brothers bumped chests after Murphy put away a hard volley.

The brothers gathered momentum in the second set. but after Luke struck a young spectator with an errant return of serve, the brothers seemed to girl and apologised, and later brought her a Wimbledon tow-

That the top of the men's game is in a state of flux could not

be more amply demonstrated than by the match that today sees the 19-year-old German Nicolas Kiefer (he will be 20 on

Saturday) and the seasoned Australian doubles specialist Todo

Woodbridge competing for a place in Wimbledon's last four. What kind of a quarter-final is that, you may ask? Both men

what kind of a quarter-thai is that, you may ask? Both men have taken the tournament completely by surprise. The 26-year-old Woodbridge, ranked 37 in the world, claimed Michael Chang's scalp in the first round, but that was not as great an achievement as beating Patrick Rafter yesterday. Kiefer, ranked 98, is building on a glittering junior career (he was Australian and US champion in 1995), though he had done little this year until his wins over Andrei Medvedev and Yevgeny Kafelnikov here. It looks like Kiefer's mobility against Woodbridge's least how to the first meeting between two men who must hard.

know-how in the first meeting between two men who must hard-

ly be able to believe what is happening.

and screaming, "c'mon, Pat" or Over the next few games, the "let's go, Mark" between every point.

Jensens stopped their tom-foolery, opting instead for a point. more conservative approach Seemingly unconcerned, the Jensens got off to a good start. to the match. Which, however, is not what they are about, and taking the first set after breakthe Jensens were quickly back

> Luke's serve in the sixth game and quickly took the set after games. In the third set, the Jensens were broken again and

Even turning his shirt inside out for the final game did not help Luke. With the Jenseus gone, the lack of characters at Wimbledon this year is even more apparent. Andre Agassi, the vibrant Las Vegan, is absent and it is not only female fans missing him: Pele Sampras, the No I seed, would also like to see

match at 5-4.

him back in SW19. Sampras, who is seeking a fourth Wimbledon triumph. TOMORROW'S HEADLINE? said: "Andre's absence really Kiefer the surprise package

Simon O'Hagan

"When I played Andre quite a bit a couple of years ago he made me a better player. It was exciting walking out with him for the US Open final. It was one of the few times I really felt the electricity from the crowd

to their chattering and horsing

and the media. challenge and rivalry that can get you up and going. Andre ing to do with retiring, it just has a is obviously missed but the lot to do with me trying as well as longer you are out, the tougher



The two Australians broke tve got two more matches to go,

so I want to keep it short. That's why I played so well. Martina holding consecutive service Hings, after beating Sabine Ap-She's just a little bit better than

Rafter was soon serving for the most of us. She's the No 1 player the world. I think without that atitude, máybe she wouldn't get so ar. **Appelmans** dismisses suga ions that Hings's comments wer

Nobody saw me as a favourity at the beginning of the tournamer but I got through pretty easily un til now. I'm improving every match feel pretty good. The draw doesn' took too bad for me. Hingis. Well, it was lunchtime. I only know that the people who were there were

remendous and gave me so much support. Greg Rusedski, aske about the sparse attendance for his the most popular players and brought a lot of attention to the game. We definitely need him.

and had my longest matches in th cournament there. So when the lecided to do away with it I didn't complain. Boris Becker on the new No 1 court

l didn't come here relaxed, not "So you kind of want that expecting anything, I expected to do well and to play well. It has nothing to do with redding. It just has a can in this tournament right now. it is to come back. He has the talent and the game, it is just getting it back together."

Michael Stick, who retires at the end of this year, after beating Mark Woodforde.

M BHUPATHI (Ind) and R HIRAKI (Japan) bt C J Van Ransburg (SA) and V Williams (US) 6-7 6-3 6-2

Men's singles

Fourth round

C Pioline (Fr) bt B Steven (NZ) 3-6 6-3 6-4 7-5 M Stich (Ger) bt M Woodforde (Aus) 6-4 6-7 6-3 7-5 B BECKER (Ger) by M RIOS (Chile) 6-2 6-2

T A Woodbridge (Aus) bt P RAFTER (Aus) 6-7 6-4 7-6 6-3 N Kiefer (Ger) bt Y KAFELNIKOV (Rus) 6-2 7-5 2-6 6-1

Women's singles Holder: S Graf (Ger)

Fourth round NICHEZ VICARIO (Sp.) bt M. PIERCE (Fr)

M HINGIS (Swit) bt S Appelmans (Bel) 6-1 Y Besuki (Indon) bt P Hy-Boulals (Can) 6-0 D Chiadkova (Cz Rep) bt M Vento (Ven) 6-1 6-3 N Taumat (Fri bit S Testuri (Fr) 4-67-5 12-10

Men's doubles Holders: M Woodforde and T Woodbridge (Aus)

Noteboom and F Wibler (Neth) bt J No-sh and D Rikl (Cz Rep) 6-3 3-6 7-5 D JOHNSON and F MONTANA (US) bt J L De Jager (SA) and T Nijssen (Neth) 6-2 6-7 6-2

S STOLLE (Aus.) and C SUK (Cz Rep.) bt T Kronemann (US) and D MacPherson (Aus.) o-s o-4 M KNOWLES (Bahem) and D NESTOR (Can) bt B Haygarth (SA) and G Van Emburgh (US) 5-7 6-1 6-4 E FERREIRA (SA) and P GALBPATTH (US) or A Othorsky (Rus) and B Steven (NZ) 6-3

nen's doubles Holders: H Sulions (C: Rep) and M Hines (Swit) N TAUZIAT (Fr) and L WILD (US) bt L Go-larsa (It) and P Schnyder (Swru 6-7 7-8 6-3

A FUSAI (Fr) and R GRANDE (It) bt S-A Sid-dell and A Wainwright (GB) 6-3 6-4 Third round G FERNANDEZ (US) and N ZVEREVA (Bela) bt C Barolay (Aus) and C Wood (GB) 7-5 7-5 Mixed doubles

Holders: C Suk and C Sukova (C: Rep) First round F Messon and F Perfetti (It) bt S E Devis (US) and P Tarabrii (Arg) 6-4 6-4

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Ken praises his

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in Andrew



days' notice for full hearing

Tyson suspended and \$30m purse withheld

MARY DEJEVSKY reports from Washington

The Nevada Athletic Commission yesterday suspended Mike Tyson from boxing with immediate effect, pending the outcome of a further disciplinary hearing, for biting the ears of his opponent, Evander Holyfield, in Saturday night's world title fight. His \$30m (£20m) purse is also to be withheld and kept in an interest-bearing account until the penalty is decided.

in Las Vegas, said that he was prepared to waive the 30 days' notice for such a full hearing to take place. That hearing is likely to convene next week, and the boxer is widely expected to face a ban, that could be months, or

In an abject apology read out in Las Vegas on Monday - his birthday - Tyson had pleaded to he allowed to continue his career. "I am just 31 years old, in the prime of my career, and I have made it this far because I had no other way." he said: Tyson added that he had "just

at the hearing, which took place snapped" after Holyfield had Yesterday, Holyfield's lawyer, headbutted him - "accidentally or not" - and asked for a chance to redeem himself. He also pledged to seek medical help, perhaps including psychiatric advice, and said that he would accept whatever punishment the commission imposed, without question, "like a man".

The apology was accepted, albeit tepidly, by Holyfield who described it as "a good gesture, but the fans deserve it the most". Holyfield was speaking from the golf course, where he was engaged in some post-fight

gas police, who were called to the Jim Thomas, stressed that acring on Saturday night to quell the post-match disturbance, were ceptance of Tyson's apology did not mean that the punishment should not be harsh. "He ceralso thought not to be bringing tainly accepts the apology," charges against Tyson, despite re-Thomas said, "and hopes that ports that Tyson had med to it's sincere. He doesn't have any strike one or more of the officers. ersonal desire to burt or oun-Meanwhile Tyson's apology ish Mike Tyson, Evander wants was creating almost as much con-

something done that will help troversy as the bites he had inflicted on Holyfield. While some preserve the integrity of the sport, and for that to happen accepted his pleas in mitigation some very meaningful sanctions - that "he had just snapped". that need to be issued by the commany athletes had made mistakes at the height of battle and Thomas also indicated that subsequently been forgiven, and

were far more cynical

Kevin Rooney, Tyson's farmer trainer, contrasted the boxer's apology with his appressive selfdesence immediately after the fight. "He made a fool of himsomething he had to do,"

moter-for Holyfield, said: "It - The black civil rights camrings hollow to apologise days - paigner the Reverend Jesse Jacklater. If he were really contrite son disagreed. Tyson, he said, had he would have done it Saturday "admitted, painfully, before the night. Why do it today? I'd just world a gross error". It was time

tention of suing Tyson: Las Ve his harsh childhood - others somebody told him he'd bener say something for the people who were threatening to take away his licence."

Ferdie Pacheco, busing analysi for the television station Showtime, also belittled Tyson's apolself and a fool of the sport on ogy. "Everybody's contrite after Saturday. Apologising was you get caught... The con has worked for him so many times. It's so easy, he knows how to how Kathy Duva, a former pro- and scrape if he had to get by.

Tinkler joins the **Barnsley party**

RUPERT METCALF AND ALAN NIXON

Barnsley is rapidly becoming as cosmopolitan a football town as Middlesbrough and Glasgow, as the Premiership newcomers continue to strengthen their squad for the challenge

that lies ahead next month. Yesterday's arrival was the South African international midfielder, Eric Tinkler, who cost £650,000 from the Italian side, Cagliari. The 26-year-old becomes Barnsley's third recruit of the summer, following the £250,000 goalkeeper Lars Leese from Bayer Leverkusen and the £1.5m club record signing, the Macedonian international striker Georgi Hristov.

Sardînîa last summer. "I am verv happy to be at Barnsley," he said. "The club is clearly ambitious." Barnsley also hope to complete the signing of the Slovenian international defender Ales Krizan for £500,000 from Maribor Branik. Despite Tottenham's £11m

offer. Juninho still seems set for Spain. The Middlesbrough forward is currently back home in Brazil, where his father and manager, Osvaldo Giroldo, said: "Juninho will play for Atletico Madrid. Next week we will go to Madrid to pass the necessary medical. Atletico and Middlesbrough reached agreement on Sunday with my approval. It is true that at the end a great offer came from Tottenham, but Tinkler had a spell with my son wants to play in Spain."

Kerr praises his heroes

Ronnie Whelan, the former a player three years ago and

Liverpool midfielder, has re- took over as manager 12

signed as the manager of months later, following the de-

The Republic of Ireland's Under-20 team manager. Brian Kerr, has admitted his team have surprised him by reaching the semi-finals of the World Youth Championship in Malaysia.

"I would have been happy just to qualify for the second phase," Kerr said as his squad celebrated Sunday's 1-0 quarterfinal win over Spain. "Now we are in the semi-finals – and who knows what can happen?"

Ireland now face the holders Argentina, 2-0 quarter-final conquerors of Brazil, today in Kuching, and Ghana - the only

relegated to the Second Division

players was one factor in my de-

cision, as was the reaction of

some of the fans at the end of

the season," the former Re-

public of Ireland international

said yesterday. "They made it

clear that I wasn't welcome. I

"The lack of cash for new

team so far to have beaten Ireland in the competition - play Uruguay in the other semi. "I don't think people appre-

ciate the amount of skill that's in this side," Kerr added. "But perhaps more people will get the message now that more of our matches will be seen on television." The Irish supporters back home will get their first chance to see their young heroes in action live when their semi-final is broadcast at 9.30am today.

Kerr will not name his team to face the holders until just be-

Whelan walks out at Southend

parture of Steve Thompson.

The reserve team coach, Peter

Trevivian, takes temporary

Gary Megson has quit as

manager of Blackpool to take

over from Dave Jones, now at

Southampton, at Stockport

County Megson, the former

Plymouth, Sheffield Wednesday,

ter City and midfielder, also had

a brief spell in charge of Nor-

Everton, Newcastle, Manches

charge of the team.

man, Alan Sugar, insisted: "I moved on to Portugal and then have just spoken to Keith Lamb Middlesbrough's chief executive] and he said [ours] is the

only offer on the table. The prolific striker Mike Sheron completed his £2.5m move from Stoke to Oueen's

Park Rangers yesterday. Bolton have sealed the club record £2.5m signing of Robbie Elliott from Newcastle. Tottenham have made a £2.7m bid for Danny Murphy of Crewe, but Newcastle and Liverpool are also keen on the England Under-20 international midfielder

Paul Ince is due to meet Everton today to discuss the terms available as part of their £5m bid for him, the best offer that Internazionale, the England midfielder's club, have on the table. Newcastle are also planning to talk to Ince.

Howard Kendall, Everton's new manager, has signed the Republic of Ireland midfielder Gareth Farrelly, who was out of contract at Aston Villa, "We may have to go to a tribunal to decide a fee," Kendall said. Another young Irish international, David Connolly, has moved to the Dutch club Feyenoord from Watford on a "Bosman ruling" free transfer at the end of his contract.

Middlesbrough are to give a three-week trial to Jose Maria Bakero, the 33-year-old former Spain and Barcelona midfielder who has just spent a season with the Mexican side. Vera Cruz.

Burnley have put the former

Carlisle manager, Clive Mid-

dlemass, in charge of team af-

fairs until they can find a

successor to Adrian Heath, who

is now assisting Howard Ken-

dall at Everton.

United manager.

tinue playing."



River chance: Competitors prepare to test the water before the Henley Regatta, which starts today

Redgrave looks to be the home banker

HUGH MATHESON

Henley Royal Regatta will have to wait until Sunday for the first and only appearance in a race of its hero, Steve Redgrave, its most successful competitor in

In the Stewards' Cup for coxless fours his crew will face only one rival, the lightweights from Nottinghamshire county. Nottingham were rowing in the eight in Paris two weeks ago when the Redgrave four went within a quarter second of the world record in only their fourth competitive outing. If his race

Chris Waddle, the former is a foregone conclusion, nowhere else will it be so easy. England international forward, has declared an interest in The regatta opens today with 88 races, spread over 11 hours, Kendall's old job as Sheffield which will under no circum-"In my own mind I have my stances be delayed however own management team who I'd heavy the rain. Remarkably, the like to work with sorted out." river, which has had to absorb Waddle said, "and I can con-40mm of rain in the past week. is well under control and should

as fair as in any year. Brian Greenfield, of the Environment Agency, said the river was very low before and the land has taken up most of the rain. There was a small increase in flow which has

already started to drop away." Today's racing in the three ghts events that attract a large entry, the Thames Cup for clubs, the Temple for academic institutions and the Princess In the Thames Cup, there is Atkins, of Nottingham and Elizabeth for schools, will pro- no outstanding crew, with the Union, who was obliged to

Olympic golds, has been "excused boots" on his first day

as a steward of the Royal Re-

gatta, writes Hugh Matheson.

ards who have owned and run

the Regatta since 1839 fill dead

men's shoes with new members

from the cream of recently

retired performers, and in the

Each winter, the 50 or so stew-

vide the opening evidence of stronger candidates being enchanges in the normal pecking order. In the schools, Radley, have climbed back to the top of the heap, after decades in the wilderness, and the "A" crew should go through against Cheltenham. Eton, no longer confidently on top and fourth at the

Gold medallist evades toil and toilets

regatta. Boat tents and latrines

lanta a year ago Redgrave an-

nounced his retirement and

was, thus, eligible for promotion

to the top deck. But soon his

hands were itching for the feel

of a blade cutting into water

again, and the stewards' star

are the usual starting point.

Steve Redgrave, the winner of summer put them to work at the

16 Henley medals as well as four lowliest tasks of running the

couraged to upgrade to the Ladies Plate, where racing will begin on Friday with international crews including the British lightweights, who finished second in Munich, and the American West Coast champions, the University of Washington.

Today, and until Sunday, he

will parade in best bib and

blazer with the polished silver

alls, whose record of seven wins

in the coxless pair has only been

surpassed by Redgrave. Then it

is back to the water to race,

fittingly, in the final of the

race the Oratory School with less than their usual aplomb.

Haining, three times lightweight world champion, will race D

At the Olympic Games in At-onta a year ago Redgrave an-him, reputedly from Gully Nick-

races last Friday, Haining, who has withdrawn from national team selection after failing to finish at Paris two weeks ago. has been weakened by a virus this year and has not approached his past form.

If he goes through today unlikely to reach the sort of showdown against one of the top heavyweights that he relishes The entry includes the British Olympic gold medallist, Greg Searle, and the American world champion, Jamie Koven, both of whom have opted to go it alone

after glittering careers in crews.
The Grand Challenge Cup for the top eights has three national crews, from Australia. Britain and Germany. The Australians, sixth in the Olympics looked superb when winning in Paris only five days after touching down in Europe and they will be looking for a couple of sharpeners before going to Stewards' Cup for coxless fours. Lausanne in 10 days' time.

still want to stay in the game as a manager, though. Whelan joined Southend as

American football Jim Criner yesterday confirmed that he is remaining as head coach of the Scot-Last year with a 5-5 record despite a tate-season push that saw them almost quality for the World Bowl Champoriship ner said. "and I love the passion of he people who live here. Scotland has

ERASEDIAII

INTERLEAGUE GAMES: Chicago Cubs (NL)
Si Kansas City (AU 7: Flonda (NU 8 Boston
(AU 5: Detroit (AU 14 New York Mets (NU)
O: Baltimore (AU 8 Phaladelpha (NU 1:
Concrinati (NU 4 Milwaukee (AU 3: New York
Yorkees (AU 1 Atlanta (NU) 0 (10 Innings);
Prissburgh (NU 3 Chicago White Sox (AU)
1: Montreal (NU) 2 Forostro (AU 1: Cleveland (AU 6 Houston (NU 4: St. Louis (NU))
2: Mirmesota (AU 1: Tevas (AU 3 Los Anglies (NU) 2: Colorado (NU 1: Annhem (AU)
7: San Dego (NU) 15 Oaldand (AU 6: San Francisco (NU 8 Seattle (AU 6 (10 innings).

Hundreds of jubilant Yugoslav basket-ball fans besieged the Croatian embassy early yesterday after their beam scored a dramatic victory at the European Championships. Several windows were shattered by stones and Croatian em-Championalists Several windows were shattered by stones and Croatian em-bassy officials reported bullet holes on the facade following a last-second the focace following a was-resource
64-62 Yugoslav victory over Croatia at
the championships in Spain.
MEN'S EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP: Group
E (in Geronni): Liftuana 93 Turkey 85, Group
F (in Badalonn): Yugoslava 64 Croata 62.

Pontifiydvíen's Da: Wilkins overcame an early seven-shot deficit to set up a match

Stephen) 25-8. Semi-finetic Ireland (P Doly. 8 Daily and D Hamiltonin to Channel istands (A Shew, T Mutton Anton, John Britton and B Powell) to England (B Smith, M Davies and D Fowles) 18-11. Fours, preliminary round: Ireland (M Stewart, Hocking), M Mchagh and W Keys) by Channel Islands (G Terry, R Brehaut, G Pugh and 8 Smoot 28-13. Semi-finetic Wales (B Weste, S Weste, D Weste and H Weste) by England (M Miller, B Batter, T Mernal and L Meter) Revenue (B M Stewart, H Mchagh and K Keys) by Stevent, H Mchagh and K Keys) by Stevent, H Mchagh and Stevent, D Breen, T Crone and J Pensiet 21-12. Junior singles semi-finetic M Greenfield (th) to 8 Medons (Scot) 21-19.

NRITH HOME INTERNATIONAL CHAMPI-CONSHIP (Worthing): Sootland of England 18 bys (108 shors) to 6 95 shots). Sootland slops finate G Adram lost to A Thomson 17-20. G Robertson lost to D Couler 15-19: R Corse beat D Ward 26-15: J Albem to T Allocok 22-13: A Marshal fost to D Center on 17-80. G Robertson lost to D Cuder 15-19: R Corse beat D Ward 26-15: J Albem to T Allocok 22-13: A Marshal fost to D Center on 10-15: W W Wood by L Miller 18-13. Weles by Channel Islands 16 (122 shots) to 6 (103 shots).

Wales sides first: D Wildns bt D Le Marquard 22-12; S Wishne bt P Ingroulle 28-11; M Anstey bt P James 20-15; W Thomas lost to C Renout 16-22; R Weals lost to V Dorey 20-

ine sweusst midneuder Jonas Iner-joised Rangers from Roma as a free agent yesterday. Sheffield United's Mark Ratterson has had his transfer from the Blades to Burnley called off. Bradford City are signing Paser Beagrie, the Manchester City winger, for a cur-price 250,000.

The Czech international Patrik Berger will be allowed to play for Liverpool next sea-son, despite falling to make enough ap-pearances to guarantee his work permit. Jean-Jacques Misse-Misse, the Cameroon international, has signed a three-year contract with the Turkish side

Barcelona confirmed yesterday the signings of Christophe Dugarry and Michael Reiziger from AC Milan and Dragan Ciric from Partizan Belgrade for undisplaced from

The Italian Serie A club Florentina will play Tottenham Hotspur on David Howells' Tottenham testimonial match at White Hart Lane on Saturday 2 August 2 00

lan striker of who was the favorite team-mete of George Weeh, announced yesterday that he's joining Paris Saint Germain in the French League on a four-

year contract:
Meanchester United will make history as they play in Hong Kong in the walks of the handover to China. United begin their pre-seeson preparations with a four to the Far East, which includes a visit to loant Kenture and Chil. Horg Kong where they Will face a Chi-nese select side. The Premiership champions, who report for training this weekend, will play in Bangkok on 17 July then in Hong Kong three days lat-er. They complete their Far East pro-

MASTERCARD TOUR (Belton Woods, Lin-cotashire) Leading second-round sower (BB or in unices stitute): 136 S Andrew 69 67. 138: P Alshaster 73 65; S Dodd 70 68. 139 C Bens 72 67; L Vannet 68 71. 141 C Cowper 73 68; S MacPherson 71 70; P Lyons 71 70, 142 S Amestrung 72 70; M Roberts 70 72; A Téman 74 68; O Thomson 72 70; N Wichelow 75 67; S Thompson 70 72; R Wang 73 69, 148 G Hutchen 73 70; S Griffiths 73 70, 144 T Spence 72 72; N Lurley 71 73; R Careshaw 75 69; J Caruls 75 68; J Lleesley 72 72; D Lucus 73 71; P Wilkins 71 73; A Traft 72 72; P Dimmock 71 73; S Bernett 73 71; S Hurd 75 69;

The Rugby Football League yesterday announced the kick-off times for the three-lest Super League series between Great Britain and Australia in the auturn. The first and second Tests, and the Membles used Old Timer on 1 and 2

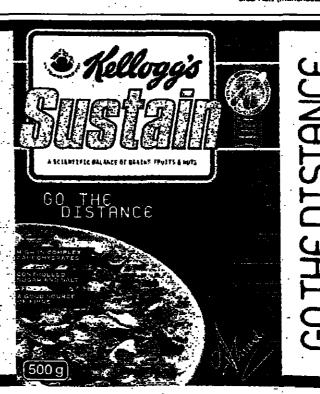
2.30pm while the third match at Elland Road, Leeds, on 16 November will have a 2pm kick-off. All three matches will

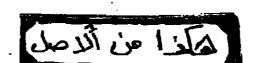
Speedway
MONDAYS LATE RESULTS: Elite League
Wolverbrampton 53 (pawich 37, Premile
Langue: Eseler 53 Arena Essex 37; Readin
48 Hulf 40, Amsteur League: Walterham)
ton and Long Eaton 50 St Austeit 28.

Matthew Syed (Richmond) and Lisa Lo-mas (Luton) have retained their No 1



ADVANTAGE HENMAN.

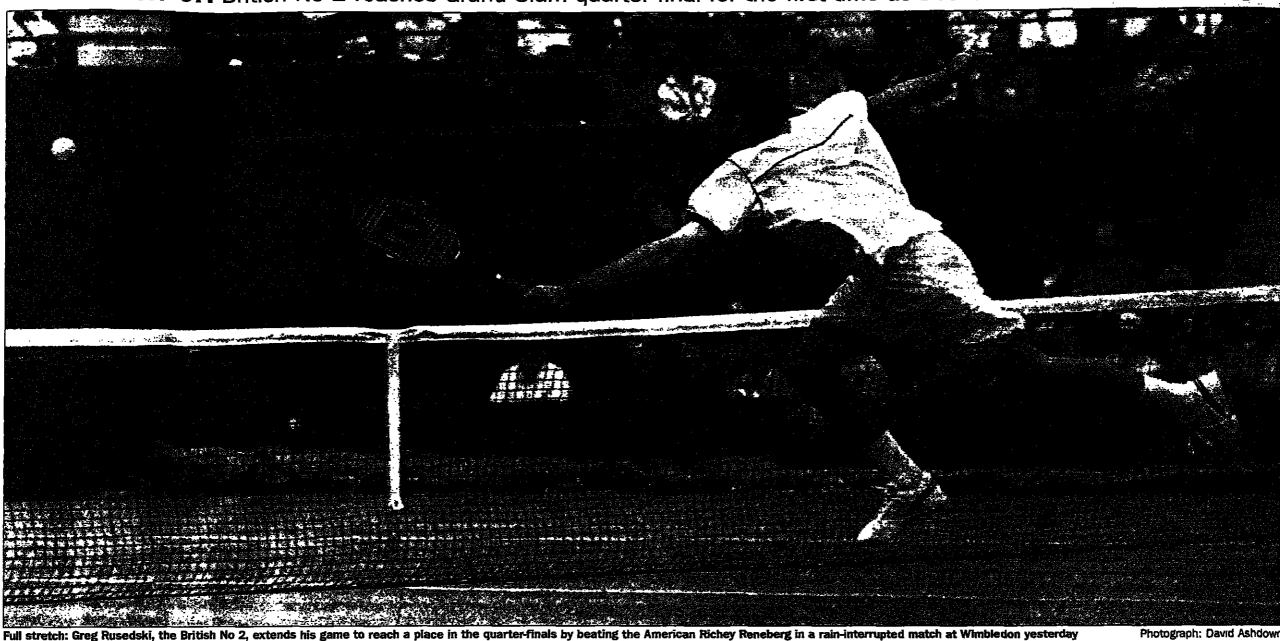




Bard of Wales

Robert Croft and the art of Test match off-spin bowling, page 28

WIMBLEDON '97: British No 2 reaches Grand Slam quarter-final for the first time as Becker leads the German charge



Rusedski rises to the grand occasion

JOHN ROBERTS

Tennis Correspondent

The dream continues. Greg Rusedski assured his adoptive Britain of a place in the men's singles quarter-finals for a second consecutive year and added

to America's woe by defeating Richey Reneberg. 7-6, 6-4, 7-6. The Canadian-born British place in the semi-finals. The last Briton to achieve that was Yorkshire's Roger Taylor, who lost to

Bjorn Borg. Rusedski is linked with Yorkshire inasmuch as his mother was born in Dewsbury, but there can be little doubt of his commitment to the national cause since his transfer from

Montreal in 1995. No sooner did he arrive than he embraced the flag, winning a place in the last 16, at which point he was defeated by Pete

On this occasion, Rusedski

hopes to enjoy an extended

against Cedric Pioline," he said.
"It's his third time in the quarters. He returns extremely well, and I think he's going to mix it up, stay back and come in, and do a bit of everything.

"It's going to depend on how well I serve and how well I return. I have to return a little bit sharper than I did today, and I am going to have to hit my ground shots and work the

Frenchman Cedric Pioline for a his work than during Saturday's second-round match against another American, Jonathan Stark. Worried by a niggling back injury, Rusedksi vented his frustrations on the umpire after a disputed call.

Sunday's straight-sets victory against Andrew Richardson, a compatriot, set the tone for yesterday's performance. "I think I was better focused," Rusedski said.

"My back was really sore on Saturday, and I wasn't in such a good mood. My physio has done a tremendous job, and I'm feeling very good. You have those days where you're not always

run. "I've got a difficult match playing your best tennis, and sometimes you do silly things out there to get yourself going.

"I'm pleased I took advantage of the situation today. I

Rusedski barely had time to loosen his left arm before drizzle forced the players back to the locker-room for 17 minutes, after which the British No 2's serving was as relentless as Fri-

He hit 32 aces, a total of service-winners, and won 90 per cent of the points on his first deliveries. His volleys were pretty fair, too, 15 of them producing winners.

Although Reneberg managed to save the solitary breakpoint in the opening set, improvising a defensive dropvolley in the sixth game, he was overwhelmed in the tie-break. 7-2, feeding Rusedski encouragement he scarcely required by

double-faulting to 1-5. An impressive teturn by Rusedski tilted the second set his way on his second breakpoint at 2-2, and he secured the two-set lead after 74 minutes

with an ace on the first set-point. Reneberg might have begun to despair of ever cracking the Rusedski serve after being bamboozled by three aces and a service winner in the fourth game of the third set, by which time a similarity in the pattern of points may have fulled some spectators

into a midday slumber. If so, they would have been terity brightened the day.

rudely awakened by one of the biggest cheers of the match, in response to a splendid catch by a woman in pink when a ball was deflected high into the stands off the frame of a racket. A lumigested that the spectator was a happy camper from the overnight queue, and her dex-

danger of being extended beyond straight sets was when he was taken to deuce at 5-6, Reneberg reading a second serve to his backhand and driving it across the court. He then netted a return and scarcely saw the ace with which Rusedski guaranteed a second tie-break.

Reneberg missed a forehand to put his opponent at 5-4 with the baseline, Rusedski finishing the job on the first match-point with an ace off a second serve.

This was greeted by an explosion of cheering, Union Jacks of various sizes materialising as it dawned on the crowd that another Brit had become nous green plastic bracelet sug- a member of the Last Eight

> Had Rusedski noticed the empty seats early in the match? "I didn't really," he said. "The

The only time Rusedski ap- crowd that came to watch the peared to be in the remotest match were terrific. They were very supportive. And, I mean, it's lunch hour, 12 noon, so I guess they're off to lunch." Some might even be out to lunch if the success story continues.

"I'm very pleased to be in the quarter-finals, but I don't want to stop here." Rusedski said. "This, hopefully, is just the beginning."

Boris Becker, defeated the

two serves to come. The Amer- Chilean Marcelo Rios, seeded to head a trio of victorious Germans into the last eight. The other two are unseeded. Michael Stich we know. He defeated Becker to win the ti-

tle in 1991. The other one, Nicolas Kiefer, we are likely to learn much more about as time goes Due to celebrate his 20th birthday on Saturday, and ranked No 98 in the world, he

eliminated the third-seeded

Yevgeny Kafelnikov, 6-2, 7-5;

Two years ago, Kiefer was the runner-up in the junior singles. Two weeks ago he played Kafelnikov for the first time, on a grass court at Halle, and was beaten, 7-6, 7-6.

Yesterday, the Russian found himself two sets in arrears before he was able to make an impression. Kiefer, unlike Tim Henman in the first round last year, did not allow Kafelnikov's much longer than the third

Kiefer's reward is a quarterfinal against Australia's Todd Woodbridge, who defeated a compatriot, the 12th-seeded Pat Rafter, 6-7, 6-4, 7-6, 6-3. Stich who is playing his last Grand Slam tournament, de-

feated Australia's Mark Wood-

forde, 6-4, 6-7, 6-3, 7-5 Results, page 30

Sanchez Vicario and Hingis on cruise control

hard around the court, but every-

RICHARD EDMONDSON

The person who sug-

gested two months ago that the Wim-

bledon ladies' sin-

gles final would be contested by Martina Hingis

want to throw at least your rack-

ets off Beachy Head. Times

have changed. Both advanced to the quarter-finals by similar scores, 6-1, 6-3, yesterday, and

there was a certain symmetry also

in the commendation they re-

against Belgium's Sabine Ap-pelmans, the No 1 seed pro-duced the best Wimbledon has seen of her. In the second, there

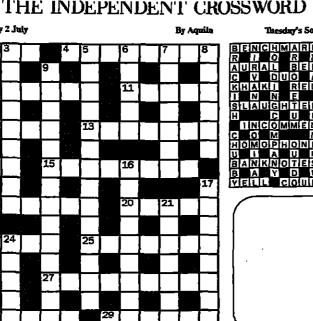
was only the slightest slackening

in her intensity. The match end-

ed with an outrageously delicate return of service which appeared

Hingis has been walking un-

ceived from the vanguished.



ACROSS

Alarm when springtime comes to the underworld 4 À lady's undergarment is

on the wrong way — there is chafing (8) 10 Sliding scale for trombon-ists? (9) 11 German folklorist, sinister,

with male following (5) 12 Uniformed soldiers in retreat, fatigued (7)
13 Nail-hardener used by tin-

ker at Inishmaan (7) 14 Priest to be Head of Chap-

ter soon (5) 15 Intimate girl puts on a little weight (8) 18 How team's beaten'?

Rather! (8)

his penalties were terrible

23 Works on Graves in 25 Distinction of some lines in Alice perhaps (7) 26 Mince-pies a brown colour

27 Stint in kitchen-garden (9) 28 Postpones putting drains around America (8) 29 Tried oxygen to restore journalist in charge? (6)

Shadow over eye for two hours aboard ship (8)

Cheese unnaturally high with this? (7)
Such conviction covers life

ared as a newspaper with the Post Office

BENGHMARKS OPUS R I O R N W A II AURAL BEEKEPER G V DUO A L V II

field, lifting gear? (5.3.6) Boring thing to predict, we hear (5)

life-story (7) 8 Calling with North Ameri-can porcelain? (6)

17 Sticks on pitch, a centre of

manufacturer (7) 21 Bait men throw out, creating relaxing atmosphere (7) 22 A born leader profits by ex-

24 The French hail-andfarewell (5)

Instructions to defender on

noticed in the crowd to the courts this week inside the camouflage of a booded sweatshirt. but there is no disguising her A perfect budget for an Osgrowing potency. In the first set

car presentation (2,5.7) 16 Neat dude until shaken up

attraction (8)
19 Month at work for an ink

to land on chewing gum.
"Her game is suited for every court," Appelmans said. "She has very good hands at the net,

she plays an aggressive game and she can do so much with the Problished by Newspaper Publishing PLC, I Canada Square, Canary Wharl London E14 SDL, and protted at Marror Colour Print, St balls. She can do as well here Back issues available from Historic Newspapers, 01988 840570. as in the other Grand Slams.

have done differently today. She was just better and she's only 16 so I'm sure she can still improve. She has a very complete game but if she gets more power, she can maybe hit the ball even harder, Other players, like Graf and Seles, really have to work

thing seems so easy for Martina. and Arantxa Sanchez Vicario She's always in the right position and it doesn't look like she has was until recently being held, for his own safety, in secure quar-ters minus his shoelaces. Now to work very hard on court. that he is out perhaps he will be That's the difference from the able to enjoy Saturday's contest. other players. She's unique. Before the French Open, Hingis and Sanchez Vicario was Hingis was so cool and assured throughout that she looked on the verge of boredom. not the obvious match-up for SW19. The Swiss Miss was still Nobody saw me as a favourite at the beginning of the tournarecovering from arthroscopic surgery on her left knee while the ment but I've got through pret-Spaniard was playing with the sort of alacrity that makes you

ty easily until now," she said. Not as easily, however, as Sanchez Vicario, who has lost seven fewer games thus far at 13. The match between the former world No 1 and Mary Pierce was scheduled on Centre Court as the appetiser before Boris and Tim. Empty seats speckled the auditorium, and the Royal Box looked like Versailles just after the Republicans had knocked on the door, It was 12.45 before the King and Queen of Malaysia. Sir

Greville and Lady Spratt and friends took to their seats. They plunged themselves into the micro-climate of an arena in which the surface suffers because of poor air circula-tion. An inverted T of khaki carth, from the baseline to the service line, has now been scored on the turf.

Sanchez Vicario turned up for duty minus her small-of-theback ball-holder, but Pierce at least provided the reliable box of tricks. She smiles at such strange times that you could imagine her guffawing at a cremation. The French woman

battering she was taking. It was a contest of Sanchez's guile and Pierce's muscle and in this chess game the latter was swiftly established as the pawn. The Spaniard shrewdly slowed down her opponent, and was particularly keen to let Pierce dwell on the loss of key points. In addition, she predicted the serve so consistently it appeared a recording of the match had already

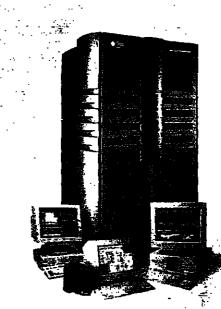
found its way into her possession. After a first set which occupied just 21 minutes, there was an anticipation that Pierce, like Montserrat, would burst into devas-tating life. She rallied briefly, producing smashes that threatened to produce craters, but was then guilty of pressing too hard. It was over in less than an hour.

Sanchez Vicario has been in the last two finals and as the figure that has derailed her on both occasions, Steffi Graf, is now in the workshop, it appears restoration may soon be complete. "At the beginning of the year I went through a very tough moment and it's been very hard," she said.
"But now everything has started going better for me. It's a great win for me today and it gives me great confidence."

So too will the words of the runner-up. "She played a great match." Pierce said. "She seemed very motivated. Definitely the way she was playing she'll be tough to beat. She brings a lot of balls back, and she actually served pretty well and his some good passing shots. Those are important shots on grass."

Pierce further attributed her defeat to a damaged arm, and a mysterious state from which she cannot really have been suffering. "I didn't feel very into the match," she said. "I was a little tired." Tired. Mary, is what nurs-There's not so much I could ranged between despondency es feel at the end of a shift.

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